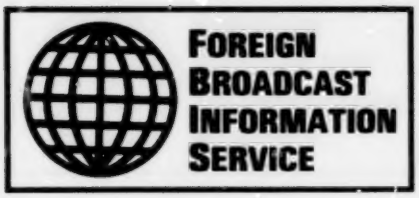


# Daily Report

# Latin America

FBIS-LAT-92-023
Tuesday
4 February 1992

# Daily Report
## Latin America

*FBIS-LAT-92-023* *4 February 1992*


CONTENTS

**NOTICE TO READERS:** An * indicates material not disseminated in electronic form.


**CARIBBEAN**

**Cuba**

Trial for Defendants Accused of Murder Begins *[Havana TV]* ..... 1
Death Penalty Requested *[Havana Radio]* ..... 1
Crowd Demands Death *[Mexico City NOTIMEX]* ..... 1
Commentary Discusses Constitutional Reforms *[Havana Radio]* ..... 2
Fuel Shortages Cause Transportation Restrictions *[Madrid EFE]* ..... 2
Aldana Praises Progress of Camaguey Municipality *[Havana Radio]* ..... 3
Ulises Rosales Visits Group in Agrarian Camp *[Havana Radio]* ..... 3
Tourism Goals Set for Matanzas Province in 1992 *[Havana Radio]* ..... 3
Havana Comments on 'U.S. Embargo' Anniversary *[Havana Radio]* ..... 4
Repatriation of Haitian Refugees by U.S. Noted *[Havana Radio]* ..... 4
Refugees Arrival Reported *[Havana Radio]* ..... 4
Ferndandez Visits Iran, Bears Castro Message *[Havana Radio]* ..... 4
Ecuadoran Delegation Meets With Fidel Castro *[Havana Radio]* ..... 4
French Parliamentarians Arrive for Visit *[Havana TV]* ..... 5

**Haiti**

Aristide Adviser Charges U.S. Involved in Coup *[Mexico City NOTIMEX]* ..... 5
Reaction to Report of Possible U.S. Intervention *[Port-au-Prince Radio]* ..... 5
Arbitration Committee To Announce Decision *[Port-au-Prince Radio]* ..... 6
Parties Oppose Committee *[Port-au-Prince Radio]* ..... 6
Committee Meeting Reported *[Port-au-Prince Radio]* ..... 7
Senators Dupiton, Sansaricq Expelled From FNCD *[Port-au-Prince Radio]* ..... 7
Priests Arrested in Jeremie; Situation 'Tense' *[Port-au-Prince Radio]* ..... 7

**St Vincent and the Grenadines**

Opposition Says Cabinet Reshuffle 'Meaningless' *[CANA]* ..... 7

**MEXICO**

Colombia's San Jose Pact Admission Ruled Out *[NOTIMEX]* ..... 8
Solana Cited on 'Excellent' Moroccan Relations *[Rabat MAP]* ..... 8
Japanese Ambassador on Free Trade Negotiations *[NOTIMEX]* ..... 8

**CENTRAL AMERICA**

**Costa Rica**

Security, Government Minister Criticizes DEA *[LA REPUBLICA 28 Jan]* ..... 10
Antidrug Agreement Signed With Argentina *[LA REPUBLICA 28 Jan]* ..... 10
Cuban Doctor Reportedly Requests Political Asylum *[Panama City ACAN]* ..... 10
Free Trade Talks With Venezuela, Mexico, Others *[LA REPUBLICA 26 Jan]* ..... 11
Industrialists Urge Caution in Commercial Opening *[LA REPUBLICA 27 Jan]* ..... 11

**El Salvador**

Cristiani Denies 'Rumor' of D'Aubuisson's Death *[Panama City ACAN]* ..... 11

ONUSAL Completes Deployment of 300 Observers *[Panama City ACAN]* ..... 12
Copaz Approves Bill Creating Security Academy *[San Salvador TV]* ..... 12
Military Leaders on FMLN Commanders' Arrival *[San Salvador TV]* ..... 12
IDB To Grant Loan for National Reconstruction *[San Salvador TV]* ..... 13
Cristiani Inaugurates Reconstruction Program *[Panama City ACAN]* ..... 13
Discusses Army Reorganization *[San Salvador Radio]* ..... 14
FMLN Reportedly Receiving Reconstruction Funds *[San Salvador Radio]* ..... 15
President Cristiani Speaks in Cabanas on 2 Feb *[San Salvador Radio]* ..... 15

**Honduras**

Callejas, Belize's Price Issue Joint Communique *[EL HERALDO 30 Jan]* ..... 16
Congress Condemns Execution of Cuban Citizen *[LA PRENSA 31 Jan]* ..... 18

**Nicaragua**

Recontras Attack Disarmament Group Vehicles *[Managua Radio]* ..... 18
Recontra Group Agrees To Join Dialogue, Disarm *[Managua Radio]* ..... 18
Foreign Cooperation Minister on German Aid *[Managua Radio]* ..... 19
IDB, Others Grant Energy Program Loans *[Managua TV]* ..... 19
EPS Announces U.S. Army Group's Arrival *[BARRICADA 31 Jan]* ..... 19
• Executive, FSLN-Labor Alliances Criticized ..... 20
• Pact With Executive Viewed *[LA PRENSA 5 Jan]* ..... 20
• Labor Violence Discussed *[LA PRENSA 5 Jan]* ..... 21

**Panama**

Government Reportedly Wants To Talk to Terrorists *[LA PRENSA 3 Feb]* ..... 22
Chevalier Denies Negotiations *[Panama City TV]* ..... 23
Attorney General Comments *[Panama City TV]* ..... 23
Weapons Cache Seized; Policeman Implicated *[Panama City TV]* ..... 23
PTJ Reportedly Raids Former President's Home *[LA PRENSA 31 Jan]* ..... 24
Students Arrested at Fuertes Caminos Inauguration *[LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA 31 Jan]* ... 24
Linares Comments on Project *[LA PRENSA 2 Feb]* ..... 24
Country Submits Request for GATT Membership *[EL PANAMA AMERICA 3 Feb]* ..... 25

## SOUTH AMERICA

**Argentina**

Menem Talks to Perez on Venezuelan Coup Attempt *[TELAM]* ..... 26
Di Tella on Export of Nuclear Material to Iran *[TELAM]* ..... 26
Agreement Signed to Purchase Bolivian Gas *[CLARIN 2 Feb]* ..... 26
Menem Signs Decree Opening Files on Nazis *[Buenos Aires Radio]* ..... 26
UCR To Participate in Political Dialogue *[TELAM]* ..... 27
Constitutional Reform Issues, Proposals Discussed *[BUENOS AIRES HERALD 31 Jan]* ..... 27

**Brazil**

Military Says Nuclear Project 'Dead and Buried' *[O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO 3 Feb]* ..... 27
Nuclear Research 'Objectives' *[O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO 2 Feb]* ..... 28
Army Role 'Embarrassing' *[O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO 2 Feb]* ..... 29
Finances Affect Project *[O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO 3 Feb]* ..... 29
Atomic Bomb 'Simple' *[O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO 2 Feb]* ..... 30
Preliminary Finding 'Murder' in Venezuelan Crash *[Rio de Janeiro TV]* ..... 30
Firm 'May Have' Sold Missile Technology to Iraq *[Rio de Janeiro TV]* ..... 30
French Satellite To Aid in Border Demarcation *[O GLOBO 30 Jan]* ..... 31
Economy Minister Reports Release of Loan Payment *[Brasilia Radio]* ..... 31

## Chile

Honecker Reportedly To Arrive in Santiago *[Santiago Radio]* ..... 31
Arrival 'Just a Rumor' *[Santiago Radio]* ..... 31
Court Upholds Request for Herrera Extradition *[Santiago Radio]* ..... 31
National Renewal, UDI Join Forces in Congress *[Santiago TV]* ..... 31
Abducted EL MERCURIO Manager Released *[Santiago TV]* ..... 32

## Colombia

Government Submits State of Emergency Bill *[Santa Fe de Bogota Radio]* ..... 32
Gaviria Revises Strategy With Uribe Appointment *[Santa Fe de Bogota TV]* ..... 32
Commission Members Resign *[EL NUEVO SIGLO 30 Jan]* ..... 33
Uribe on Violence *[Santa Fe de Bogota Radio]* ..... 33
Rebels Want Gaviria's Presence *[Santa Fe de Bogota Radio]* ..... 33
Barrancabermeja Terrorism *[Santa Fe de Bogota Radio]* ..... 34
Demobilized Group Blames Faction For Deaths *[EL TIEMPO 30 Jan]* ..... 34
Duran Abducted To Force Military Withdrawal *[Santa Fe de Bogota Radio]* ..... 34
Abductors Make Demands *[EL NUEVO SIGLO 31 Jan]* ..... 35
Council To Discuss Demobilization Plan in Popayan *[Santa Fe de Bogota Radio]* ..... 35
M-19 Democratic Alliance Presents Talks Proposal *[Santa Fe de Bogota TV]* ..... 35
'Text' of Joint Customs Agreement With Venezuela *[EL TIEMPO 30 Jan]* ..... 36

## Uruguay

Lacalle Campaign for Majority in Congress Viewed *[Madrid EFE]* ..... 37

## Venezuela

Perez Addresses Nation After Coup Attempt *[Caracas Radio/TV]* ..... 37
Updates Nation *[Caracas Radio/TV]* ..... 38
Situation 'Normal' *[Caracas Radio/TV]* ..... 38
Armed Forces Vow Loyalty to Perez, Government *[Caracas Radio/TV]* ..... 39
Movement for Socialism Leader Opposes Coup *[Caracas Radio]* ..... 39
Government Troops Seize State TV Station *[Madrid EFE]* ..... 40
Surrender of Rebels in Caracas Reported *[Madrid Radio]* ..... 40
Coup Blamed on 'Terrible' Cost of IMF Measures *[Madrid Radio]* ..... 40
MAS Declares 'Solidarity' With Government *[Caracas TV]* ..... 40
Deputy Interior Minister Reports 'Few Deaths' *[Madrid EFE]* ..... 41
Governor of Bolivar State Says Situation Normal *[Caracas TV]* ..... 41
Social Christian Official Condemns Coup Attempt *[Caracas TV]* ..... 41
Television Reports on Situation Throughout Country *[Caracas TV]* ..... 42
Caracas Governor: Guarantees Suspension Approved *[Caracas TV]* ..... 42
Decree Issued *[Caracas TV]* ..... 42
Banking Operations Suspended for Two Days *[AFP]* ..... 43
Coup Leader Urges Followers To Lay Down Arms *[Caracas TV]* ..... 43
Democratic Action Rejects Attempted Coup *[Caracas TV]* ..... 43
Caracas Governor Praises Armed Forces, Police *[Caracas TV]* ..... 44
Civilians, Students Reportedly Supported Rebels *[AFP]* ..... 44

## Guyana

Economy Records 6.1 Percent Increase in 1991 *[CANA]* ..... 45
Commission Chairman on New, Clean Voters List *[CANA]* ..... 45

## Cuba

### Trial for Defendants Accused of Murder Begins

*FL0402020192 Havana Tele Rebelde and Cuba Vision Networks in Spanish 0100 GMT 4 Feb 92*

[Text] The court hearing of the trial of those accused of events at the Tarara naval facility in Pioneers City, under the charges of piracy and murder, began today at the Court for Crimes Against State Security of the Provincial People's Tribunal of Havana City. The names of the nine accused are: Luis Miguel Almeida Perez, Rene Salmeron Mendoza, Elias Perez Bocourt, Eric Salmeron Mendoza, Pedro Marcelino de la Rosa Guerra, Esperanza Atencio de la Rosa, Migdalis Ponce Casanova, Maria Mendoza Marrero, and Enrique de la Rosa Guerra.

In this trial, Case No. 3 of 1992, Acting Prosecutor Jose Luis Toledo Santander, during the provisional conclusions, and based on files from the preliminary phase, requested the death penalty for Luis Miguel Almeida Perez and Rene Salmeron Mendoza; a jail sentence of 30 years each for Elias Perez Bocourt, Pedro de la Rosa Guerra, and Eric Salmeron Mendoza; 18 years for Esperanza Atencio de la Rosa; 15 years for Migdailis Ponce Casanova; eight years for Maria Mendoza Marrero; and three years for Enrique de la Rosa Guerra.

During the first day of the trial, the defendants confessed their participation in the reproachable events that cost the lives of three Ministry of the Interior soldiers: Yuri Gomez Reinoso, Rafael Guevara Borges, and Orosman Duenas Valero; and seriously injured Rolando Perez Quintosa, who is hovering between life and death.

The degree of participation of each defendant in the piracy and murder case was proven through questions by the prosecutor, the seven defense lawyers, and the testimony of the accused. The first defendant to testify was Luis Miguel Almeida Perez. He recounted how the illegal departure from the country in one of the Tarara Naval Base boats was planned and the neutralization of the guards. He confessed that they had previously considered the possibility of physically eliminating the soldiers if it became necessary. He admitted being the author of the murders and using the AKM rifle of one of the guards.

Furthermore, Luis Miguel Almeida Perez testified that after firing the AKM, he gave a Makarov pistol to Rene Salmeron Mendoza who entered the guard shack and that shots from that weapon were later heard. In order to fulfill their plan, the accused were carrying machetes, a dagger, one knife, and a pipe; and later took the weapons of the soldiers. Some of the accused confessed that they were trying to illegally leave the country since those who arrive in the United States in this manner are well received there, especially if they have committed crimes against state security. Yet, official procedures to legally enter that country are blocked by U.S. authorities.

The trial, which will continue tomorrow, is developing with all procedural guarantees. The only thing remaining to be done at the trial is to hear the testimonies of witnesses and experts, and the arguments of the prosecutor and defense lawyers.

### Death Penalty Requested

*PA0402005592 Havana Radio Havana Cuba in Spanish 0009 GMT 4 Feb 92*

[Text] The provincial prosecutor of the City of Havana today requested the death penalty for Cuban citizens Luis Miguel Almeida Perez and Rene Salmeron Mendoza, who confessed to murder and piracy.

In the court hearing which began today, Salmeron explained how he killed the guards of Tarara Naval Base, two of who were bound hand and foot. He said he took advantage of the fact he was a former employee of that center to try to steal a boat, together with six other people involved in the crime, to travel to the United States illegally.

Almeida Perez is accused, together with Rene Salmeron, of being the masterminds of the action that cost the lives of three members of the Interior Ministry, while another one is hovering between life and death.

The prosecutor also requested a 30-year prison sentence for Erick Salmeron Mendoza, Elias Perez Bocourt, and Pedro Marcelino de la Rosa. He requested an 18-year prison sentence for Esperanza Marta Atencio, a 15-year sentence for Migdalis Ponce, an eight-year sentence for Maria Mendoza, and a three-year sentence for Enrique de la Rosa Guerra.

### Crowd Demands Death

*PA03C2234792 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2240 GMT 3 Feb 92*

[Text] Havana, 3 Feb (NOTIMEX)—Hundreds of people have gathered in the streets adjacent to the Provincial People's Tribunal, where seven Cubans are being tried for murdering three Interior Ministry [Minint] agents on 9 January.

The Revolutionary National Police were forced to close off Brazil Street in the well-known Old Havana area, where judges, prosecutors, and defense attorneys are hearing the defendants' depositions and examining the evidence presented by experts and witnesses.

Amid shouts of "murderers, murderers!" and "shoot him! shoot him! men, women, and children are waiting for the results of the trial at the Havana Provincial People's Tribunal.

On 11 January, this same court sentenced three Cubans who entered Cuba clandestinely and were accused of participating in "terrorism" after they were captured on 29 December 1991, carrying weapons and explosives. The death penalty for two of the three culprits was

commuted and they were sentenced to 30 years in prison. Eduardo Diaz Betancourt, however, was executed.

Regarding the current case, according to sources from the prosecutor, five men and two women are implicated in the murder of the Minint agents. The alleged murderers are Luis Miguel Almeida Perez, age 27, and his wife Miderglis Ponce Casanova, age 20; Enck Salmeron Mendoza, age 19, and his brother Rene, age 22; Elias Perez Cocourt, age 22; Pedro Marcelino de la Rosa Guerra, age 48, and his wife Micaela Atencion de la Rosa, age 37. These seven people participated in the murder of policeman Yuri Gomez Reinoso, age 19; border guardsman Orosman Duenas Valero, age 20; and custodian Rafael Guevara Borges, age 30. They seriously wounded Third Sargeant Rolando Perez Quintosa.

According to official investigations, the Interior Ministry officials were shot to death in the morning of 9 January in the Tarara Nautical Recreational Center, 20 km from Havana, after the seven failed in an attempt to steal a boat to escape to the United States. Tarara is a children's recreational center in which a group of Soviet children who were harmed by the Chernobyl nuclear accident are being treated.

According to sources close to the People's Provincial Tribunal in Havana, two of the seven people involved in the murder could be sentenced to death by firing squad.

Luis Miguel Almeida Perez, who worked in the Tarara center until December of last year, is the leading mastermind and could be one of those sentenced to death for the murder in Tarara.

The Havana Province prosecutor's ruling could be made known in the next two days.

## Commentary Discusses Constitutional Reforms

*PA0302183892 Havana Radio Havana Cuba in Spanish 1330 GMT 1 Feb 92*

[Amalia San Martino commentary]

[Text] The Cuban Government is determined to perfect the socialist project despite the evident increase in activities by hostile groups inside and outside the country. The main leaders reaffirm it every time they have to opportunity to do so.

As part of the perfecting process, almost 150 deputies, divided into 15 commissions, prepare proposals for changes to the Constitution, which is the first step for the promulgation of a new electoral law.

The law will consider a recommendation made by the participants at the Fourth Congress of the Communist Party of Cuba to—for the first time—elect deputies through direct voting to the National Assembly and the Provincial Assemblies of the People's Government.

Despite the foreign campaigns aimed at discrediting the democratic system in Cuba, particularly after the recent terrorist actions, the Cuban revolution is willing to continue plans to perfect the socialist system.

Those projects for perfecting the system include changes to the Constitution. Despite the fact that no details of other changes have been reported besides the ones mentioned earlier, it is believed that the reforms will also extend the mandate of the rank and file delegates of the People's Government. Those delegates are elected every two-and-one-half years and, in the future, will be elected every five years.

Despite the eventual reforms, the Cuban Constitution will not cease to state the economic, political, and social rights of all the citizens, their individual liberties, and basic guarantees.

The respect for that group of vital items allow man to exist without any kind of discrimination that could limit his participation in society and the full development of his potential.

Those items are the real human rights which the UN Charter endorses before the international community and which materialized in Cuba after the triumph of the revolution.

This way, Cuban citizens can form part of different social organizations in accordance with Article 53 of the Constitution. To do this, they only need to meet the requirements and state their will to form part of such organizations that are part of the country's system of political power.

The individual liberties are aimed at developing the personality and they include freedom of speech and of conscience as the citizens can belong to any religion they prefer.

Those liberties will continue to be respected even if the Cuban Constitution is reformed.

## Fuel Shortages Cause Transportation Restrictions

*PA0302164292 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0807 GMT 3 Feb 92*

[Text] Havana, 3 Feb (EFE)—The swap of jobs and readjustments in the transportation sector are the new measures imposed in Cuba to face the anticipated lack of fuel in 1992.

The island authorities have warned they probably will not be able to acquire more than 6 million tons of fuel at the current world prices, therefore, they are forced to limit the use of energy.

Among the measures taken to save fuel, the government has undertaken a gradual and drastic reduction of transportation in the capital. The fourth and last stage was implemented on 2 February. This last stage involves the

suspension of five popular bus lines "guaguas" and a change of schedule in many others.

In total, 48 bus lines will be suspended and the 113 vehicles that will continue circulating along the capital's main avenues—in some cases with changes in their schedule—will do so with even less stops than before.

Moreover, the official newspaper GRANMA reported that as of 3 February, the exchange of work places will start all over the nation. Workers will remain at sites close to their homes to avoid using public transportation.

These "swaps," as they are called in Cuba, will be done on a voluntary basis among persons who carry out similar tasks in the same or different enterprises. Those whose regular occupations are different, but are qualified to carry out the tasks of the other person, will also be considered.

The State Committee for Labor and Social Security (CETSS, Labor Ministry), has also stated that the workers who exchange workplaces cannot be under discipline action nor under process for lack of discipline at the workplace.

The workers will earn what has been fixed for the job or the occupation that they will carry out, along with the other benefits of the job.

Within the same effort to face the fuel crisis and the lack of vehicle spare parts, once again horse drawn carts are being reinstated. These can be seen on the streets of some provincial cities being used for transportation of passengers.

This means of transportation, traditional in Bayamo (on the eastern side of the island) and in Cardenas, 140 km from Havana, where the carts and bicycles never ceased to circulate, are now frequently seen in places such as Cienfuegos.

## Aldana Praises Progress of Camaguey Municipality

*FL0302214392 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 3 Feb 92*

[Text] A brief glance at Guaimaro, the easternmost municipality in Camaguey Province, is enough to confirm that a good example always finds its spot, regardless of the place or activity. Self-sufficiency, innovations, new construction projects, and solutions to local problems say a lot about the climate of creativity and political will of an entire people. The new facilities for Radio Guaimaro, dedicated on 2 February by Carlos Aldana, a member of the Politburo of the Communist Party of Cuba, stands out among the completed projects.

[Begin Aldana recording] A radio station covering a territory like this has specific tasks that no other station can adequately fulfill. We know that here there is experience, there are well-trained comrades who know the territory well, who know you well, who are able to interpret your needs and concerns, and through their programming, be exponents of those needs and concerns. They will keep you informed about everything that is happening here, because we sometimes forget that in every corner of our country, in every corner of our nation, we are waging day by day, minute by minute, the great battle for development, progress, and the well-being of our people. [end recording]

In his speech, Aldana devoted words of praise and recognition to the efforts of the masses through which, given the scarcity of water because of an intense drought, 1,500 wells were built in record time. These wells solved one of the people's vital problems, and in addition, prevented the need for transportation of water from Camaguey, as had happened in similar situations.

[Begin Aldana recording] This is what we will always do when faced by any problems, any difficulties, all adversities. We will forge the answer with our own hands. We will find the solution. We will not stop. We will not sit down and cry. We will not begin to complain. We will seek an answer, unite, join our efforts and our minds together, solve the problems, and continue to move forward. [end recording]

## Ulises Rosales Visits Group in Agrarian Camp

*FL0402004092 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 2032 GMT 3 Feb 92*

[Text] Division General Ulises Rosales del Toro, first vice minister of the Revolutionary Armed Forces and chief of the General Staff, has visited the Sixth UJC [Union of Young Communists] Congress military group working on the tomato harvest at Los Palacios in Pinar del Rio Province. The general, who is also a member of the Politburo, was briefed on the goals achieved by this group during its first month of work, during which they harvested more than 461,000 boxes of tomatoes, planted 16 million seedlings, and replanted another 12 million.

The chief of the General Staff verified the preparations at various camps to house the 1,000 students from the Camilo Cienfuegos Military Schools who arrived yesterday to relieve the navy cadets and troops.

The high-level military chief particularly congratulated civil worker Blanca Nieves Cruz, who is ahead of the rest in the harvest, with records of even more than 60 boxes of tomatoes in one day.

## Tourism Goals Set for Matanzas Province in 1992

*FL0102192892 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1704 GMT 1 Feb 92*

[Text] According to a statistical study, Varadero, the major tourist center in the country, closed last year with a capacity of more than 6,100 rooms. The study indicated that in 1991, 193,000 tourists visited this resort city of Matanzas; the majority were from European countries. This means there was a more than 4 percent increase in comparison with the same time period in 1990 when the tourism earnings exceeded more than 120 million pesos in Matanzas Province.

For the current year—in anticipation of an influx of tourists—the goal is to end the year with more than 1,000 finished rooms, which will raise the number of available rooms to 7,000, including hotels, inns, bungalows, and other facilities.

### Havana Comments on 'U.S. Embargo' Anniversary

*FL0302142292 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1255 GMT 3 Feb 92*

["Our Opinion" commentary]

[Text] Today is formally the 30th anniversary of the U.S. embargo against our country, but in fact the economic hostilities against Cuba began as soon as the victorious revolution started to adopt the first measures to defend the interests of the people and the nation, as Fidel had announced in the Moncada program. In the face of each attack by successive U.S. Administrations, the Cuban response has been not to yield, but to advance the revolutionary process. To a certain extent, it was Washington's own myopia and sublime ignorance of Latin American and Caribbean reality, and of what a real revolution is, that pressured us to accelerate the process.

The embargo has cost us billions of dollars. At the start, what the United States called an embargo formally excluded food and medicine. The facts quickly showed that the political measure of the embargo had, and has the aim of crushing the revolution, socialism, and our nation. There is no country on this continent or in the world which has suffered in recent times from a more stubborn, aggressive embargo, or one with more serious consequences, than the one from which we still suffer.

When it comes to analyzing with a cool head the consequences the embargo has had and has for our economy, we can say that not all our economic problems have been directly determined by this aggressive action by Washington. But at the root of our difficulties, in one way or another, all our problems are linked to the embargo. At present, the Bush administration as a whole and some members of Congress are trying to implement a blockade, a type of military action that is rejected by international law in peacetime and only accepted under very specific and limited circumstances during a declared conflict between two nations.

It is also fair to note that within the United States itself there are political, intellectual, and business figures who reject the blockade or embargo, as they call it there, for various reasons, including business reasons. For our country, which is subject today to what is virtually a double embargo, these circumstances, far from making us yield, have increased our ability to resist and create under very adverse conditions. This is the essence of the efforts that we are making today to save the nation, the revolution, and socialism.

### Repatriation of Haitian Refugees by U.S. Noted

*FL0302142092 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 3 Feb 92*

[Text] The U.S. Government continued the repatriation of the Haitians at the Guantanamo Naval Base this Sunday and 400 of them have been taken back to their country in the last 48 hours on board military ships. The Haitians have been put into the hands of the military coupists who overthrew the constitutional government of President Jean-Bertrand Aristide. There are 5,500 Haitians on the Guantanamo Naval Base, which is on illegally-occupied Cuban territory.

The Bush administration considers them unqualified to receive asylum in the United States, since the U.S. legal system believes they left Haiti for economic and not political reasons.

### Refugees Arrival Reported

*FL0402020792 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 4 Feb 92*

[Text] PRENSA LATINA reports that the first group of 162 repatriated Haitians arrived today in Port-au-Prince from the naval base which the United States occupies in Guantanamo Province. In this manner, U.S. authorities have initiated the forced repatriation of approximately 10,500 Haitians who escaped from Haiti after the military coup that overthrew President Jean-Bertrand Aristide. The United States is claiming that the Haitians could not show plausible reasons for seeking political asylum.

According to FRANCE PRESS AGENCY, the Haitians were transferred on the Coast Guard vessel Steadfast, unable to move on the bridge of the vessel and guarded by 16 armed Marines in combat uniform.

### Ferndandez Visits Iran, Bears Castro Message

*FL0302141892 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 3 Feb 92*

[Text] The Iranian Government news agency IRNA has reported that Jose Ramon Fernandez, vice president of the Cuban Council of Ministers, is now in Iran and is bearing a message from President Fidel Castro to his Iranian counterpart 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani. According to that agency, Fernandez and his delegation will stay in Iran for one week. The Cuban vice president will meet with Mehdi Mahdavi-Karrubi, the speaker of the Islamic Consultative Assembly, and other Iranian officials.

### Ecuadoran Delegation Meets With Fidel Castro

*FL0302214492 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 3 Feb 92*

[Text] The meeting between Commander in Chief Fidel Castro and the delegation of Ecuadoran legislators visiting our country has been described as an historic event

by Mr. Manuel Salgado, vice president of the Ecuadoran legislature and president of the legislature's Ecuador-Cuba Group, who stressed this today at a news conference. Salgado also heads the delegation, which is to return to Ecuador today. Salgado referred to the subjects discussed with Fidel, especially those concerning scientific development in Cuba.

[Begin Salgado recording] On that occasion, we told him of our needs. We told him that right now in Ecuador there are 24 universities, polytechnical schools, and institutions of higher education undergoing a profound crisis. They are barely developed and receive little support for scientific and technological research. We mentioned to the commander the possibility for expansion of accords, agreements, and treaties through which we could receive guidance and share the experiences we have on both sides, right? We could pay for this with oil or gas, or pay for it with materials and equipment for construction development. There are excellent [words indistinct] production in our country. [end recording]

The Ecuadoran delegation, which has been in our country since 28 January, is also comprised of Deputies Daniel and Victor Granda and Luis Villa Creces.

### French Parliamentarians Arrive for Visit

*FL0302174592 Havana Tele Rebelde and Cuba Vision Networks in Spanish 0100 GMT 2 Feb 92*

[Text] A delegation of French senators who are members of the France-Latin America Friendship Group arrived in Havana today for a working visit. The delegation, which is headed by Mr. (Roland Dubois), will exchange views with Cuban leaders on economic and political matters. Like the delegation of French senators that visited us last year, this delegation will tour places of interest to get an idea of the situation in Cuba when the Western media are trying to distort the process we are experiencing. Their tour of Latin America will include Jamaica and the Dominican Republic.

Belizean Deputy Prime Minister Florencio Marin arrived on the same Mexican Airlines flight. He was met by Vice Minister of the Sugar Industry Raul Trujillo. Marin told the press about his aim of finding out about Cuba's achievements in sugarcane agriculture and the development of the sugar industry in general.

## Haiti

### Aristide Adviser Charges U.S. Involved in Coup

*PA0302233492 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2149 GMT 3 Feb 92*

[By Marie Line Charles]

[Text] Mexico City, 3 Feb (NOTIMEX)—Priest Antoine Adrien, political adviser to deposed Haitian President Jean-Bertrand Aristide, said on 3 February that the crisis in his country will be solved once the United States explains its role in the coup d'etat.

During an interview with NOTIMEX, Adrien gave an account of events prior to 30 September showing that U.S. Ambassador to Haiti Alvin Adams played a role in the coup. Days prior to the coup against Aristide, the U.S. diplomat presented a number of Haitian Army demands to certain parliamentarians, the priest said. In the days following the coup Adams provided coup supporters with high technology communications equipment and manipulated the situation and general discontent that prevailed to make it impossible to reach a solution to the crisis.

Adrien said Adams' meddling in Haitian politics could have stemmed from the fact that "he was resentful toward Aristide because of his success in the 16 December 1990 elections, because the United States favored rightist Marc Bazin." On the eve of the elections the U.S. mission of observers headed by James Carter asked him, in his capacity as a priest, to convince Aristide to stay out of the elections. The argument, Adrien said, was that Aristide's nomination "could provoke a sea of blood in the country." Andrew Young, one of the observers, told Adrien "Aristide would not win, the people would protest, the Army would react violently, and there would be a disaster."

The United States rejected Aristide's economic plan because it had urged the Haitian Government to start a privatization plan and to refrain from controlling prices.

Adrien said Aristide's administration refused to heed Washington's recommendations, because it would prevent the government from achieving internal consolidation. Adrien charged that "besides the U.S. attitude stems from complicity with certain backward sectors, the OAS, and the Catholic Church hierarchy." During its first visit to Haiti the OAS mission lent an ear only to Aristide's enemies, prompting French Ambassador Jean-Rafael Dufour to file a protest.

Colombian envoy Augusto Ramirez Ocampo refused to subject to consultations the candidates chosen by Aristide for the post of prime minister. The most prominent among them was Victor Benoit.

"The truth is the OAS acts according to the wishes of the United States, which seeks a solution that favors its interests; there are no negotiations with the OAS, only U.S. negotiations," Adrien said.

"The United States never thought the Army would go this far," a diplomat said in Port-au-Prince. "Perhaps they finally realized who they are dealing with," Adrien added.

### Reaction to Report of Possible U.S. Intervention

*FL0302230692 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1700 GMT 31 Jan 92*

[Text] Senators Madistin and Dupiton have reacted to the recent NEW YORK TIMES statement that the

United States would consider military intervention in Haiti to enforce the embargo. Let us listen to their statements on that subject.

[Begin recording] [Mandestin] I do not want American military intervention in my country, to kidnap Haitian military men, even if I disagree with their viewpoints. I personally do not want that. I think it is our duty to do all we can to not reach that point.

[Dupiton] Whatever faults are committed by an officer of Haiti's Army, I think that the case must be presented to the judicial power of this country. I believe that for cases of military justice, the military system has its organic law providing for the treatment of military offenders so they can be dealt with according to the seriousness of their offence and sentenced as deserved. I do not consider any possibility of international forces, or another country's forces to enter the country for the purpose of kidnapping people. I believe that Haitian laws condemn the kidnapping of people because Haiti is still a sovereign country.

We must be very careful because what is being playing on the streets—where you hear all kinds of statements—is that the sovereignty of the country is being threatened. I do not see people; I see an entity. Society and Haiti's territorial limits must be defended. [end recording]

### Arbitration Committee To Announce Decision

*FL0302234392 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1145 GMT 3 Feb 92*

[Text] The Senate Arbitration Committee should announce their proposal for a solution to the Haitian crisis this week. The senators have been interviewing important sectors of the national life for one week, up to and including yesterday, on a way out of the crisis. The Senate's final guest at these meetings was Prime Minister Jean-Jacques Honorat. This week should be a decisive one according to members of the Senate committee. A senator we interviewed provides explanations.

[Begin recording in Creole] [Senator Julio Larosiliere] [Words indistinct] Do not forget that members of the executive.... [changes thought] Remember that the executive has to send committee members to finalize the decision with us. Do you understand? So, tomorrow, the day after tomorrow [as heard], we will discuss all the proposals we recorded in order to synthetize, study, and even to [words indistinct] as constitutional jurists to determine exactly how we will get the country out of the crisis.

[Unidentified reporter] Will you publish the decision you adopt from all these consultations without contacting the Chamber of Deputies?

[Larosiliere] It is normal to contact the Chamber of Deputies. We will get in touch with them as early as tomorrow because.... [changes thought] Do not forget that the Senate and the Chamber of Deputies are Siamese twins. One does not move without the other. Despite their vote rejecting...[changes thought] they were free to do so. But I believe they will realize how sound our decision is. There are no stupid people in the lower chamber. They can all understand. They might have taken a position, but if later on they realize it must be changed, they will change it once they see it is for the good of the nation.

[Reporter] When can the nation be informed of the decision that you have adopted?

[Larosiliere] We will work steadily this week to see if we can publish it by the end of the week.

[Reporter] What about the Army, for instance?

[Larosiliere] We saw its members. They came here. The entire high command came here.

[Reporter] Did General Cedras reaffirm during this meeting that he will respect any decisions adopted within the framework of the negotiated solution?

[Larosiliere] I think you can wait for the final resolution to see what it will be. We will even be able to tell you what each sector said before we publish the final decision. [end recording]

That was the opinion of Senator Julio Larosiliere, member of the Arbitration Committee of the Senate of the Republic. Another viewpoint is that of National Reconstruction Movement Senator Rony Mondestin who believes it will be difficult to coordinate the synthesis because not all sectors concerned with the crisis were formally met during the week.

### Parties Oppose Committee

*FL0402003792 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1145 GMT 3 Feb 92*

[Text] It should be observed that at least three political parties, including most notably, the National Front for Change and Democracy [FNCD], the National Congress of Democratic Movements [CONACOM], and the National Reconstruction Movement have abstained from participating in the Senate's initiative aimed at finding a negotiated solution to the crisis through meetings in parliament.

In a letter to the senatorial committee, FNCD explains that these meetings represent dilatory maneuvers by some parliamentarians to prolong the crisis. CONACOM points out that a return to constitutional legality was not mentioned in the Senate's invitation. They expressed their hope, however, that parliament, Father Jean-Bertrand Aristide, and the OAS can arrive at a consensus to resolve the crisis as soon as possible. CONACOM considers the meetings and consultations of the Senate a regression in the negotiation process.

### Committee Meeting Reported

*FL0302222892 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1700 GMT 31 Jan 92*

[Text] Today the senatorial committee is due to meet with representatives of the National Reconstruction Movement [MRN], the National Cooperative Action Movement, the National Front for Change and Democracy, and the National Agricultural And Industrial Party. Let us recall that members of these parties had been attacked and humiliated during the MRN attack on 25 January.

### Senators Dupiton, Sansaricq Expelled From FNCD

*FL0402010192 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1145 GMT 3 Feb 92*

[Text] The National Front for Change and Democracy [FNCD] parliamentary bloc and the crisis committee of this party have decided to expel two senators of the Republic from the party. They are Thomas Eddy Dupiton and Bernard Sansaricq. This decision, to dismiss the two senators who were elected under the banner of the FNCD, was made at the conclusion of a meeting of the Front at the Holiday Inn Hotel on 31 January.

FNCD officials specifically reproach Senators Dupiton and Sansaricq for opposing the return of President Aristide, and for participating in a political federation known as the Alliance for Parliamentary Cohesion. The senators in question do stand a chance, nevertheless, of reinstatement. They have been granted a deadline of three days to exercise their right of appeal to FNCD officials.

### Priests Arrested in Jeremie; Situation 'Tense'

*FL0402014292 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1930 GMT 31 Jan 92*

[Excerpts] We are nobody's enemies. We want to work with everyone, but we want to work with order, discipline, and respect. These were the statements made by Father Lindor after the arrest of parish priests in Jeremie. The military arrested Father Franky Lucien along with Father McArthur Jerome in Parish Leon where they work. According to Father Lindor, these were more summoning than arrests.

[Begin Father Lindor recording] [Words indistinct] What would be the cause of priests having so many problems with the military in Jeremie? [end recording]

According to Father Lindor, there have been a series of false accusations that the priests have instigated the tide of panic which has recently been rolling over Jeremie preventing students from attending school. The priests are asking the military to seriously investigate the matter because anyone can say anything against the priests. [passage omitted].

The political situation is very tense in Jeremie nowadays. Anxiety has spread throughout the city; people do not speak to strangers and many people are trying to provoke unrest in the town. Father Lindor also disclosed that Dr. Edmond Brunache was arrested and soon released. Amos Antoine was also arrested Sunday evening. He is still in prison in Jeremie.

## St Vincent and the Grenadines

### Opposition Says Cabinet Reshuffle 'Meaningless'

*FL0302183792 Bridgetown CANA in English 1502 GMT 2 Feb 92*

[Text] Kingston, St Vincent, Feb 2, CANA—St Vincent's opposition Movement for National Unity (MNU) of Dr. Ralph Gonsalves, has described as meaningless last week's mini cabinet reshuffle by Prime Minister James Mitchell.

The party in its weekly organ, UNITY, said Mitchell had failed to achieve the principal aim of a cabinet reshuffle which was to restructure portfolios in order to improve political and administrative efficiency.

"It appears as though his (Mitchell's) principal aim was to humiliate Johnathan Peters by effectively demoting him," said the paper.

Peters, a former United Nations ambassador, had his status upgraded last year from that of a parliamentary secretary in the Trade and Tourism Ministry to minister in the Foreign Affairs and Finance Ministry and has now been removed to head a new Ministry of Trade and Consumers Affairs.

"In his new ministry Peters would only need to put in half-day per week, he may sensibly spend the rest of his time to grow yams and raise hogs," the paper said.

The MNU also questioned the ability of the new foreign affairs minister, Herbert Young to effectively shape and execute the country's foreign policy and dismissed the exchange of parliamentary secretaries in the Ministries of Housing, and Communications and Works as having "no real significance".

Mitchell gave no reason for his cabinet reshuffle in which he relieved himself of the foreign affairs portfolio, created a new parliamentary secretary position in his ministry and split the Trade and Tourism Ministry to form a new Ministry of Trade and Consumers Affairs.

## Colombia's San Jose Pact Admission Ruled Out

*PA3101185092 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 1550 GMT 30 Jan 92*

[Text] Mexico City, 30 Jan (NOTIMEX)—Colombia's admission into the San Jose Pact is not being considered for the time being, Abel Magana, information chief of the Energy, Mines, and Parastate Industry Secretariat (SEMIP), has said.

Magana made reference to newspaper reports saying that Colombia would join the organization, which was created in 1980 and through which Venezuela and Mexico sell 160,000 barrels of oil per day to Central American and Caribbean countries under preferential conditions.

The SEMIP spokesman said "Colombia's admission into the pact, which was signed 11 years ago, is unlikely because that country lacks a sufficient amount of hydrocarbons to export."

The report was based on the fact that Colombia, as well as Venezuela and Mexico, form the Group of Three (G-3) and its contribution was based on its huge coal reserves which, according to the Latin American Energy Organization (OLADE), amount to 6.4426 billion tons.

According to OLADE, Colombia only exports 192,100 barrels of oil per day, less than Mexico's oil exports (1.2773 million bpd) and Venezuela's exports (1.39 million bpd).

According to the San Jose Pact, Mexico and Venezuela sell 160,000 bpd under favorable conditions to 10 Central American and Caribbean nations.

As for Haiti, the 11th country benefited from the energy pact, its supply of oil has been suspended since the military coup, which overthrew President Jean- Bertrand Aristide on 30 September 1991.

Magana said the G-3 has formed commissions that are reviewing possible trilateral projects in the fields of oil, gas, and electricity.

In this regard, the Central American countries are interested in the benefits they could receive with a future electrical interconnection that would go from Mexico to Venezuela, passing through Central America, he said.

He also said meetings between Colombian and Mexican businessmen have been held to review the possibility that the Mexican private sector could participate in the mining of Colombian coal and sell it to foreign markets.

## Solana Cited on 'Excellent' Moroccan Relations

*LD0102154992 Rabat MAP in English 1358 GMT 1 Feb 92*

[Text] Mexico City, Feb. 1 (MAP)—Mexican Foreign Secretary Fernando Solana has voiced satisfation at the excellent relations existing between Morocco and Mexico. This was stated by a release circulated here Friday at the end of the visit to Mexico of a Moroccan delegation from the Ministry of Energy and Mines.

The release stated that meetings and contacts between the Moroccan delegation and Mexican officials and industrialists provided opportunity to stress the two countries' resolve in upgrading bilateral cooperation in technical and commercial fields. It added that the Moroccan delegation was successful in talking several Mexican companies into contributing to carry out projects in the fields of sulfur, electric, nuclear and mining energy. It also stressed that Morocco is Mexico's major trade African partner and praised the development of relations between the countries following the exchange of visits between Abdellatif Filali, Moroccan minister of state for foreign affairs, and his Mexican counterpart Fernando Solana.

## Japanese Ambassador on Free Trade Negotiations

*PA0102195192 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2322 GMT 31 Jan 92*

[Text] Mexico City, 31 Jan (NOTIMEX)—Japan feels the Free Trade Agreement [TLC] that Mexico is negotiating with the United States and Canada should be open to other countries, Tsuneo Tanaka, Japanese ambassador to Mexico, said on 31 January.

In a news conference at a Mexico City hotel, Tanaka said that the TLC must be open to countries outside the North American region if Japan's investments in Mexico are to flow unimpeded.

Tanaka said the TLC must be consistent with GATT's free trade principles. He said that, in particular, the source rule should be reasonable and not detrimental to investment in third countries.

The ambassador said that Japan is interested in increasing its investments in Mexico, which until September 1991 had reached $1.919 billion. He added, however, that this objective would be more difficult "if the TLC establishes restrictive measures."

He expressed confidence that the Mexican Government "will adhere to the principle that the TLC should not become a closed bloc." "We understand that the Mexican negotiators are doing everything possible so the TLC can be opened to other countries."

Tanaka pointed out that his country has given "top priority status" to cooperation on measures to combat pollution in Mexico City, "which the Mexican Government regards as an extremely urgent matter."

He said that in 1991 Japan offered $800 million to Mexico to finance the construction of oil desulfurization systems and facilities for the production of lead-free gasoline.

The ambassador said that a Japanese delegation of pollution-combating experts will arrive soon in response to a request by Manuel Camacho Solis, head of the Mexico City government.

Tanaka recalled that his country has invited Mexican technicians to Japan to conduct studies on how to prevent air pollution in the Mexico City valley.

He said that three Japanese economic delegations will visit Mexico in February and March to study the country's economic perspectives in the framework of the planned TLC.

"Japanese businessmen must be 120 percent convinced of a project's feasibility before investing in a foreign country," Tanaka commented.

Finally, the Japanese ambassador commented that the economic aid that his country offers to Latin America at present represents 10 percent (approximately $1 billion) of the total amount (close to $10 billion) that Japan earmarks as assistance to developing countries.

## Costa Rica

### Security, Government Minister Criticizes DEA

*PA0302194892 San Jose LA REPUBLICA in Spanish 28 Jan 92 p 10a*

[Text] Luis Fishman, minister of government and public security, has said that the U.S. DEA's lack of cooperation with Costa Rica is one of the main reasons for the difficulties being faced in the struggle against drug trafficking.

The minister states that, as the person responsible for the office in charge of combating drug trafficking, he has not received any help from DEA personnel stationed in Costa Rica.

"More and more I feel that the DEA has less interest in supplying us with data on drug traffickers who are using Costa Rica as a bridge for their activities," Fishman said.

The DEA officers should work jointly with the Costa Ricans, but currently they do not even have the same objectives.

There is a certain level of distrust of the local police among the U.S. agents, who work solely with the officers of the Judicial Investigation Agency (OIJ).

The minister gave as an example the case of U.S. national Robert Allen Russell, who has lived in Costa Rica since 1990 and was arrested by the U.S. police for selling cocaine. The Costa Rican Government learned of this through the press, never having received any communication in this regard.

Fishman criticized this action since a prior report would have allowed the police to investigate the foreigner's connections in Costa Rica.

Aside from the scarce police cooperation, Fishman pointed out that the reduction in U.S. economic aid makes the struggle against drug trafficking even more difficult, given the lack of funds made available to the nation.

Without mentioning any figures, the minister also noted that the cooperation is three times less than what it was three years ago. Meanwhile, he noted, the amount of drugs that pass through Central America en route to the north is increasing.

The U.S. authorities do not understand that in the international struggle against drug trafficking, it is important to reinforce the struggle in nations that serve as a bridge and warehouse for drugs, as is the case with Costa Rica.

Although the nation follows the DEA's policies in this field, many things will go unaccomplished if Costa Rica has to carry out this effort alone, Fishman stated.

### Antidrug Agreement Signed With Argentina

*PA0302162092 San Jose LA REPUBLICA in Spanish 28 Jan 92 p 26A*

[Text] The governments of Argentina and Costa Rica on 27 January signed a bilateral aid agreement to fight drug trafficking. The signing took place during an unpretentious ceremony at the Justice Ministry.

The agreement establishes intergovernment cooperation for the training of penitentiary system personnel to reduce the demand for drugs and to improve treatment and rehabilitation programs for addicts.

The agreement calls for the implementation of new legal instruments, such as extraditions and mutual legal assistance to fight drug trafficking and money laundering activities.

Since last year, Argentina authorities have provided training for prison officials, and this year they will also train teachers and professors to be able to detect narcodependency among students and contribute to their rehabilitation.

At the signing ceremony, Dr. Alberto Lesteller, the Argentine Government's representative, said that the various countries will be able to defeat drug trafficking and drug addiction only if they are united. Otherwise, he said, countries will be in danger of their political systems falling prey to corruption and of exposing their citizens to drug use and death.

### Cuban Doctor Reportedly Requests Political Asylum

*PA0202191792 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1729 GMT 2 Feb 92*

[Text] San Jose, 2 Feb (ACAN-EFE)—The Committee for the Defense of Human Rights in Cuba reported on 2 February that Cuban Dr. Fidel Pena deserted from a medical assistance mission in Nicaragua and asked for political asylum in Costa Rica.

According to the report, Pena is a neurosurgeon and traveled to Managua last January as part of a team of specialists conducting social services in the Central American country.

The Cuban professional said his country's economic problems are very serious due to the shortage of food and lack of fuel and that they see no way out because the situation "gets worse every day."

Pena is the eighth Cuban to request political asylum in Costa Rica in the last few months. Two other medics, two artists of the Cuban Dance Company, and three fishermen preceded him.

The Costa Rican Foreign Ministry has not confirmed whether the Cuban dissident's request will be accepted, but the government has maintained the policy of

granting asylum to Cuban emigrants based on the idea that citizens are denied their individual rights and political liberties in Cuba.

### Free Trade Talks With Venezuela, Mexico, Others

*PA0302042292 San Jose LA REPUBLICA in Spanish 26 Jan 92*

[Text] Economy Minister Gonzalo Fajardo on 25 January announced the beginning of talks among the Venezuelan, Mexican, and Central American governments. The talks will concern the signing of free trade agreements.

Costa Rican and Venezuelan authorities will meet on 17 February to review a list of 380 products that could initially be included in a free trade agreement. Costa Rica imports approximately $70 million in oil by-products and aluminum, but only exports $5 million in electric and and pharmaceutical products.

Fajardo also announced there will be a meeting of Central American deputy economy ministers with Mexican Secretary of Commerce Jaime Serra on 6 February in San Salvador.

A calendar will be set at this meeting for negotiations between Central America and Mexico aimed at establishing a free trade agreement.

### Industrialists Urge Caution in Commercial Opening

*PA0302175192 San Jose LA REPUBLICA in Spanish 27 Jan 92 p 5A*

[Text] Costa Rican industrialists have urged the government to act cautiously in implementing a process of commercial opening in response to difficulties that have arisen in the establishment of a free trade zone between Mexico, the United States, and Canada,

The government is promoting a process of commercial opening with the intention of joining the free trade zone to be established by Canada, the United States, and Mexico. This zone would be the largest in the world, with a population of approximately 350 million people.

In implementing that opening, in addition to the negotiations to be conducted with its main commercial partners, the government will reduce import duties to a maximum of 20 percent effective April 1992. Import duties should be no higher than 5 percent by mid-1993.

"Contrary to what some people say, industrialists are not trying to hamper the opening of our market. We want to make it viable and with the lowest possible social cost," they said, stressing the need for state reform prior to the economic opening.

They noted that the contrary would leave Costa Rican products in a disadvantageous position, and "we would be delivering our products to foreign companies, which in view of the crisis (in their countries) are desperately trying to place their products in world markets."

The Chamber of Industries recalled the recession affecting the United States, Costa Rica's main commercial partner, which has forced large companies to fire thousands of workers; and Canada, the two strongest partners in the U.S. market. [sentence as published]

They added it is true that the free market is the world trend today, which should not be overlooked. But it is also important to consider the difficulties in the United States, which are affecting the negotiations with Mexico and Canada.

The experience in the North American Free Trade Agreement, known as NAFTA, and the problems with the Uruguay Round and the GATT "are clear signals that we must take the necessary precautions."

Costa Rican industries generate approximately 20 percent of the country's GNP; and approximately 200,000 workers, who represent one-fifth of the total labor force, directly depend on these activities.

## El Salvador

### Cristiani Denies 'Rumor' of D'Aubuisson's Death

*PA0302223592 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2032 GMT 3 Feb 92*

[Excerpt] San Salvador, 3 Feb (ACAN - EFE)—Roberto d'Aubuisson, leader and founder of the principal Salvadoran rightist party, has survived the throat cancer that has kept him on the verge of death for the past two weeks and has even slightly improved, according to medical and party sources.

The delicate state of health of the former Army major, linked by the opposition to the "death squads," gave rise to the rumor he had died and that his death was being kept secret. Fellow party member President Alfredo Cristiani denied the rumor.

D'Aubuisson's state of health suddenly deteriorated precisely as El Salvador ended the 12 year civil war with the signing of the peace treaty between the Salvadoran Government and guerrillas on 16 January in Mexico City.

D'Aubuisson, founder of the ruling Nationalist Republican Alliance (ARENA) "improved" two weeks after being seriously ill with throat cancer, hospital sources told ACAN-EFE.

An ARENA supporter at the hospital, accompanying d'Aubuisson's wife Marta Angulo, said: "The major spent the night well." Another hospital source said d'Aubuisson's "serious condition has slightly improved."

D'Aubuisson, 48, underwent surgery last week for a liver ailment after receiving periodic chemotherapy for his throat cancer.

President Alfredo Cristiani denied earlier rumors of the rightist leader's death, noting he had talked with d'Aubuisson's wife who told him "his serious condition had stabilized."

Cristiani rejected any possibility that d'Aubuisson's death may cause internal divisions in the party, which was founded in September 1981.

"As a party, we have always admired the leadership of the founder of the institution. Certainly his disappearance would be painful for all. ARENA, however, is a consolidated political party that will continue to function," President Cristiani added.

"None of us is indispensable," the president added, noting that despite any obstacle, ARENA "will continue to represent large sectors of the Salvadoran people." [passage omitted].

## ONUSAL Completes Deployment of 300 Observers

*PA0102043692 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0036 GMT 1 Feb 92*

[By Emilio Crespo]

[Excerpt] San Salvador, 1 Feb (ACAN-EFE)—On 31 January, the peace forces of the UN Observers for El Salvador (ONUSAL) ended the deployment of more than 300 military observers, who will verify on 1 February the official beginning of the cease-fire throughout the country.

ONUSAL spokesmen have told ACAN-EFE that the deployment of their forces have been conducted without incident along the 150 locations, 100 for the Army and 50 for the guerrillas, where the forces from both sides will begin to gather.

The ONUSAL observers, soldiers from Spain, Venezuela, Canada, and elsewhere, established their camps in the 14 departments of El Salvador, while the Army and the guerrillas, who fought for 12 years, abandoned their positions and began to move toward the gathering places.

ONUSAL sources explained that "there are no obstacles to the job of ONUSAL, but rather a great deal of enthusiasm."

Spanish General Victor Suanzes, chief of the military contingent of ONUSAL, has told the press that there has been "full cooperation" from the parties on the fulfillment of ONUSAL's mission. However, he stressed the logistical problems that have been overcome to get to some positions, which can only be reached by helicopter.

ONUSAL consists of approximately 1,000 observers, although 630 of them, who will be policemen from several countries responsible for supervising the period of transition to a new public force, will arrive in El Salvador next week.

The largest military contingent in ONUSAL is the Spanish contingent, which consists of more than 100 soldiers. Some of them have experience as members of the recently dissolved ONUCA [UN Observer Group in Central America], which over the past two years supervised the pacification of Nicaragua and several borders in Central America.

In addition to the observers scattered around the country, starting on 1 February, ONUSAL will have mobile patrols that will verify compliance with the cease-fire and the demobilization. [passage omitted]

## Copaz Approves Bill Creating Security Academy

*PA3101152892 San Salvador Canal Doce Television in Spanish 0300 GMT 31 Jan 92*

[Text] The National Commission for the Consolidation of Peace, Copaz, has ended its meeting in Mexico, the last meeting to be held abroad. Copaz approved a bill for the creation of the Public Security Academy and will present the bill to the Legislative Assembly for its approval. Before returning to El Salvador, Democratic Convergence leader Ruben Zamora said the bill establishes that the academy will be the only institute authorized to recruit, select, train, and conduct all the necessary tests for the new national police.

Once the bill has been ratified by the Legislative Assembly, the Public Security Academy will become an autonomous institution with its own budget and regulations. The academy will be governed by an academic council to be appointed by the president of El Salvador.

Zamora, who is also vice president of the Legislative Assembly, said the bill could be reviewed and approved by the Legislative Assembly in two weeks.

## Military Leaders on FMLN Commanders' Arrival

*PA0102135192 San Salvador Canal Doce Television in Spanish 0300 GMT 1 Feb 92*

[Text] General Mauricio Ernesto Vargas, deputy chief of staff, has said it is time to leave hatred behind and dedicate ourselves to the reconstruction of the country.

Meanwhile, Gen. Juan Orlando Zepeda, deputy defense minister, said the arrival of Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front [FMLN] commanders will contribute to [word indistinct] grass roots organizations.

Effective 1 February, El Salvador will change its image from a country at war to a country of peace and detente. The military commanders expressed optimism about the beginning of a new phase in our country, which after 12 years of armed conflict is heading toward the total establishment of democracy.

[Begin recording] [Vargas] We believe that minor social costs for our fatherland and people are necessary, and we must all be really happy for having attained peace.

[Reporter] Do you think you had to yield much more than the FMLN?

[Vargas] Definitely not. The institutions make structural changes, while the responsibilities assumed by the irregular forces are determined by the circumstances. That is what happened in our country. [end recording]

Gen. Vargas said that there is no room for bad feelings in the reconstruction and reconciliation process.

[Begin recording] [Reporter] What did you feel when you shook hands with the guerrillas?

[Vargas] Absolutely nothing. I have worked to build a democracy. I disagree with their ideas, but we must talk without resorting to violence and respect the ideas of others. Otherwise, we have accomplished nothing. [end recording]

Gen. Orlando Zepeda said that the attitude assumed by the FMLN and its main leaders in the political field will be a determining factor. He called for patriotism to meet the people's demands.

[Begin recording] [Zepeda] We hope their presence will contribute to appease the masses that have always been causing confrontations.

[Reporter] Do the Armed Forces feel that by accepting and signing the agreements, the FMLN will really accept peace?

[Zepeda] I believe so. We must have confidence and be positive. I have had the opportunity to talk twice with some of the FMLN commanders, and I believe that they have good intentions. Hopefully, the grass roots and mid-level commanders will understand the message, which is no longer a message of confrontation. [end recording]

Gen. Zepeda stressed that with the ratification of constitutional amendments on the subject of the Armed Forces, the armed institution will assume a new role, which we will respect. As always, we will follow the Constitution. The fatherland has ordered us to silence our weapons, which is what we have done. They will remain silent until the fatherland demands otherwise, he concluded.

## IDB To Grant Loan for National Reconstruction

*PA3101182992 San Salvador Canal Doce Television in Spanish 0300 GMT 31 Jan 92*

[Text] On 31 January, the government and the Inter-American Development Bank, IDB, analyzed El Salvador's economic needs during the reconstruction period. During a meeting between the planning minister and a high-level IDB official, it was reported that the IDB will supply funds to provide assistance to those zones most affected by the war.

The IDB will supply approximately $150 million to help in the national reconstruction process. Planning Minister Mirna Lievano de Marquez announced the IDB will finance social projects in the areas most ravaged by the war. Lievano de Marquez met with IDB representatives to discuss the areas that are in need of reconstruction.

[Begin Lievano de Marquez recording, in progress]...the strategy is the same. We must look for ways to expedite projects and disbursements. It is obvious that some projects are more complex, thus we will have to formulate these projects as soon as possible in conjunction with the IDB. Disbursements will follow. If we were to make a very broad estimate of the amount needed to support the reconstruction process, the amount would fall anywhere between $100 million and $150 million. [end recording]

IDB delegate William (Lars) believes all the necessary conditions are present for the IDB to lend its support to the peace process. (Lars) said the IDB delegation had come to El Salvador to make sure the peace process got off to a good start.

[Begin (Lars) recording] This is a moment of great historic importance for El Salvador. I am sure all the necessary conditions are present to ensure that an immediate and timely intervention by the IDB will allow us to help the country consolidate the peace process, reactivate the economy, and rehabilitate those zones where the country's basic infrastructure has been affected. [end recording]

Lievano de Marquez feels it is necessary for all social sectors—including the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front—to participate in this phase of national reconstruction towards a new country. Lievano said the government will listen to all suggestions to try to improve reconstruction projects in an effort to ensure the reunification of society.

## Cristiani Inaugurates Reconstruction Program

*PA0302161992 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2219 GMT 2 Feb 92*

[By Carlos Rugamas]

[Text] Sensuntepeque (El Salvador), 2 Feb (ACAN-EFE)—On 2 February Salvadoran President Alfredo Cristiani inaugurated the country's reconstruction program in the central town of Sensuntepeque after 12 years of civil war, which officially ended on 1 February.

The president distributed funds for infrastructure works and health and social projects to various mayors from towns in the interior of the country that were adversely affected by the armed conflict between the Army and the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN).

Cristiani said the plan, to which the FMLN is opposed and which will cost $13 million in its first phase or

"contingency stage," "has its financial limitations," because we do not have the "necessary resources" in the short run.

The guerrillas, who along with the Army initiated a demobilization plan on 1 February that is expected to be completed in 10 months, rejected the reconstruction program because, according to them, 80 percent of the program will be used for infrastructure works, which will not resolve the economic and social problems of the country.

The president, who traveled to Sensuntepeque by helicopter, was accompanied by state officials and diplomats from the so-called "group of friends of the United Nations to attain peace in El Salvador" (Colombia, Venezuela, Mexico, and Spain).

Mexican Ambassador Hermilo Lopez said on behalf of the group of friends that Cristiani "will not be left alone" in the postwar stage, and he announced that "this same week we will begin to provide assistance for the reconstruction process."

The rural school where Cristiani arrived to inaugurate the reconstruction program was decorated with wreaths and signs that read: "Welcome President of Peace."

Even though the definitive cease-fire, which silenced weapons throughout the entire country, went into effect on 1 February, the site was patrolled by 2d Military Detachment soldiers armed with M-60 machine guns with great firepower.

During his speech, Cristiani recommended "caution and realism" to avoid "creating false expectations that could produce unnecessary frustration among the people."

The reactivation of the Salvadoran economy, he said, must be accomplished with international financial support and with the determination of all citizens.

The civil war in this Central American nation took 75,000 lives, according to humanitarian organizations, and economic losses were officially estimated at $1 billion.

The government believes that to rebuild the country, $1.8 billion will be needed.

Planning Minister Mirna Lievano said the "contingency stage" of the plan includes the return of former guerrilla fighters to society, health services for areas most adversely affected by the conflict, and assistance for the war wounded, among other measures.

According to the authorities, one of the areas that will receive the most support from the plan is the health field. New health centers will be built and hospitals that have been damaged will be repaired and resupplied.

The electrical infrastructure over the entire country must also be rebuilt, although not during the first phase of the program. The electrical infrastructure was one of the primary military targets of the FMLN to wear down the economy.

Sigifredo Ochoa, president of the Lempa River Hydroelectric Executive Commission, told the media that the continuous FMLN sabotage caused over $72.5 million in losses to the electrical system, the restoration of which [sentence incomplete as received].

### Discusses Army Reorganization

*PA0302234992 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSU in Spanish 1858 GMT 3 Feb 92*

[Report by Julio Ernesto Rodriguez]

[Text] During a ceremony to inaugurate the new school year, President Alfredo Cristiani announced a plan to reassign functions to Army units that played specific roles during the war. Cristiani said these units, including the Zacatecoluca Engineers Battalion, will work on road and bridge reconstruction. He also said the National Guard will no longer exist as a public security body. Many of its members will be reassigned to border patrol units, Cristiani said.

[Begin Cristiani recording] According to the agreement, both groups will cease to be public security organizations. The National Guard will be a separate body with specific border patrol and military police functions. The Engineers Battalion can make significant contributions to road and bridge repairs. The Armed Forces have always carried out civic-military activities, especially in public health areas. We have also seen that the Air Force has been very useful in transporting personnel. The idea is to incorporate the Armed Forces into the national reconstruction plan. [end recording]

President Cristiani, who marked the inauguration of the new school year at a local school on 3 February, traveled from Santa Tecla to National Guard headquarters to commemorate the Guard's 80th anniversary. Regarding plans for the academic year, Cristiani said with the end of the armed conflict, the government has outlined a plan to rebuild schools, particularly in rural areas. He said this will be coordinated with local mayors.

[Begin Cristiani recording] We intend to incorporate the largest possible number of children and youths into the education plan. We must repair the educational infrastructure throughout the country, particularly those schools damaged during the war which have so far been impossible to repair. The time is right for this type of work. The education program intends to gradually increase the number of students, particularly at the kindergarten and primary school level. [end recording]

Cristiani also said that Major Roberto d'Aubuisson's health condition has stabilized. The latest medical report said an acute hemorrhage was checked, obviating the need for a special operation. Cristiani said d'Aubuisson is out of intensive care.

## FMLN Reportedly Receiving Reconstruction Funds

*PA0402040392 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSU in Spanish 1230 GMT 3 Feb 92*

[Report by Balmore Parada]

[Text] The Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front [FMLN] has said it already has funds for the national reconstruction program. The FMLN's Political-Diplomatic Commission on 2 February said the Norwegian Government donated $2 million for that purpose.

Commander Roberto Canas of the FMLN's Political Commission said the $2 million was offered prior to the signing of the peace agreements on 16 January in Mexico between the Cristiani administration and the FMLN:

[Begin Canas recording] I can tell you we have about $2 million for that purpose. The Norwegian Government, through members of the Norwegian Foreign Ministry, handed us a letter stating its willingness to give us that amount before we headed for the Chapultepec Palace on 16 January to sign the peace agreements.

The EEC—I do not have specific figures at this moment—has offered a significant sum to develop this plan. The Salvadoran Government plans to spend $1 billion over the first five years, although it does not currently have that sum available. It must make an international effort to obtain financing. In doing so, El Salvador will find that donor governments and agencies will request that the government's reconstruction plan be compatible with efforts that the FMLN and other segments of the population are making. [end recording]

The FMLN believes at least $2 billion is needed for the country's reconstruction. We must develop the financing necessary to buy land in conflict areas. This will come from international aid.

[Begin Canas recording] We must seek financing to accomplish that. Every time we knocked on doors in search of financing, we were asked: Is it a coordinated effort; is it an effort compatible with the efforts of others? I do not believe the world's development agencies are willing to finance reconstruction projects that fail to comply with such a requirement. Our reconstruction should be the product of a concerted effort to integrate the efforts of all sectors. [end recording]

The commander said the agreements point to the need to make the government's national reconstruction plan compatible with the plans of nongovernment organizations. This will be accomplished through the UN development program. The FMLN is intent on contributing to the country's reconstruction. For this purpose it will launch a strong diplomatic offensive in various European countries and the United States to obtain financing for the reconstruction plans it has for conflict areas, Commander Roberto Canas added.

## President Cristiani Speaks in Cabanas on 2 Feb

*PA0402020592 San Salvador Radio El Salvador Network in Spanish 1630 GMT 2 Feb 92*

[Speech by President Alfredo Cristiani in Sensuntepeque, Cabanas Department—live]

[Text] Mr. Vice President Jose Francisco Merino and Mrs. Merino; honorable Legislative Assembly deputies; your excellencies ambassadors and honorable members of international organizations; cabinet members; Cabanas Department Governor; Sensuntepeque Mayor; national reconstruction secretary; department military commander; mayors and members of municipal councils; ladies and gentlemen; dear children:

In past weeks, all Salvadorans have experienced moments of joy and excitement at seeing the greatly cherished dream of attaining peace become a reality. On New Year's Eve the announcement of the New York Agreement cleared the path to unity among Salvadorans at the precise moment they were getting ready to embrace each other with hope. From the signing of the Chapultepec Agreements—one of the most important historic events in the life of our country—up to this beautiful day marking the start of the reconstruction of our beloved El Salvador, we are seeing how we are gradually building the foundations of peace.

In the midst of the happiness overwhelming us now, we must understand and realize that the effort we must undertake will be very big, and on different occasions we will face moments of doubt, uncertainty, and mistrust. The most important thing is to know and trust that if we all contribute in a spirit of solidarity, it will be possible to unite our country after so many years of internal strife and sorrow.

It is possible to work in harmony and unity, as one big family, for prosperity. It is possible to upgrade the level and quality of life of all Salvadorans, chiefly of the neediest, since now that violence is over we will be able to earmark more resources for social programs. It is possible to respect the rights of others, recognizing that the rights of one person end where the rights of others begin. It is possible to strengthen and maintain a democracy that gives political maneuvering room to all so the people can freely elect different options to solve our problems. It is possible to live in freedom, to make room for the creativity and desire for self-improvement characteristic of Salvadorans.

In sum, dear brothers, it is possible and it must be possible to live in peace. Just as the consolidation of the peace process will be the product of the contribution each of us makes, the success of the major task of national reconstruction will depend on government contributions and the solidarity efforts of all. For that reason, as we now begin to implement the national reconstruction plan, we appeal to all Salvadorans, businessmen, industrialists, professionals, peasants, workers, intellectuals, artists, artisans, housewives, young people,

and politicians of all ideologies to join our efforts. We know well from life's experience that there is a time to fight and a time to build. Today we bury the fratricidal struggle of the past and return to the path of the harmony and unity of brothers to build again.

Planning Minister Mirna Lievano de Marquez, the secretary of national reconstruction, and several government officials have given us a brief sketch of what the national reconstruction plan is and seeks to be. We want to warn that we should behave with caution and realism and avoid raising false expectations that could produce unnecessary frustration among the people.

The national reconstruction plan certainly has its limits. It has its financial limits. Our country, which is coming out of a serious crisis, does not have the necessary resources to solve all the Salvadoran peoples' problems. That is why this morning we were pleased and grateful to listen to the words of our friend, the Mexican ambassador, who said the international community is now willing to support the Salvadoran reconstruction plan. It is necessary for all of us to make an effort so, when we find a friend who can help us in this hard duty, he can do so. We must not go out and ask for ourselves. The donations and goodwill gestures of the international community must be for all Salvadoran people.

The national reconstruction program will not solve all of our social problems, either. Even though an effort will be made to provide health services, rebuild schools, repair roads, provide electric and water services, as well as other basic services for the community, the national reconstruction program will not resolve everything. We must continue with the national development program that began in 1989. We must understand that the national reconstruction program is part of that whole. We are only going to initiate this route for the progress of the Salvadoran people at this time.

It is necessary to understand that the socioeconomic development plan is limited because of our resources. We cannot, from any viewpoint, be irresponsible at this time. Irresponsibility will only lead us to commit what we believe to be the worst crime a government can commit: generating inflation and causing an increase in the cost of living. This is the worst enemy of people who have the least. In our country we have been able to get the cost of living to increase less and less every day. We hope prices will stabilize shortly. We cannot return to those critical times when the prices of basic products increased every day.

The Salvadoran Government believes—and we are sure we have the support of all Salvadorans—that we are initiating the moral, spiritual, and material reconstruction of the Salvadoran people. Together we can achieve this. The national reconstruction plan must become a mechanism that, on one hand, can help the government expand its economic and social actions, and on the other hand—perhaps most importantly—provide new opportunities so the private sector, community associations, nongovernmental organizations, and municipal governments can actively participate in this noble duty that must be performed by all Salvadorans.

Only through a coordinated effort can we begin to effectively tackle the root of our social problems. Thus we can create conditions to break the vicious circle of poverty and gradually establish the virtuous circle of socioeconomic development that will equally aid in overall development. Everyone who participated in one way or another in the direction and orientation of our country's destiny must always bear in mind that El Salvador's greatest wealth lies in its people. The grandeur of our nation lies in its indomitable will to achieve peace, progress, and liberty amid democracy.

The 16 January peace agreement only marks the beginning of a new era of national reconstruction in every order. The first thing that must be rebuilt is confidence.

Salvadorans cannot aspire to a renewed life if significant remnants of rejection and intolerance still persist in national awareness. Real reconstruction must have a moral base. That is why we have invited all our fellow citizens to participate in the arduous effort of rebuilding, from the ashes of war, the country that we want—strong, dignified, just, and full of historic vitality. The first big challenge our generation faced was to overcome the war. The second challenge is to build peace. If we have triumphed in the first challenge, there is nothing to prevent us from being successful in the second challenge.

Salvadoran brothers, on reaching this moment we must understand that the future is today, because today we are beginning to rebuild the fatherland we will bequeath to our children. On beginning this great task, we ask God to guide us, to grant us wisdom and faith to be able to carry out the great national reconstruction task and to make El Salvador big and prosperous in peace, as we all have dreamed. Thank you very much, and may God bless you.

## Honduras

### Callejas, Belize's Price Issue Joint Communique

*PA3101174892 Tegucigalpa EL HERALDO in Spanish 30 Jan 92 p 35*

[Joint communique issued by President Rafael Leonardo Callejas and Belizean Prime Minister George Price in Tegucigalpa on 29 January]

[Text] At the invitation of Honduran President Rafael Leonardo Callejas Romero, His Excellency Mr. George Price, prime minister of Belize, made a visit to Honduras on 28 and 29 January 1992.

The Belizean prime minister's visit was very significant for relations between the two countries. Its purpose was to strengthen the ties of friendship and fraternity binding the Republics of Honduras and Belize and to expand their economic relations and mutual cooperation within the framework of a new world order in which those

factors are required for the development of society. As a result of talks between the two presidents on matters of bilateral, regional, and international interest, they have agreed to issue the following joint communique:

1. To reaffirm their governments' political resolve to consolidate cooperation between the two countries and to continue strengthening bilateral relations in pursuit of broad and progressive development. The two presidents evaluated the current status of their bilateral relations and made successful progress in the area of mutual cooperation.

2. To reaffirm their determination to intensify efforts to attain economic development, institutional strength, social justice, and international cooperation, and to make reasonable use of human and natural resources.

3. Convinced that education is an important factor in the development of the two countries, both leaders reaffirm their decision to maintain, strengthen, and execute the actions specified in the Educational-Cultural Exchange Agreement. To fulfill this firm goal, they committed themselves to promoting relations at different levels of education and to developing teaching methods, especially on curricula; methodology; training; teaching material; technical cooperation; intercultural bilingual education; and comprehensive preventive education, which is in keeping with the policy to promote efforts to combat the serious problem of drug and alcohol addiction.

4. Promote exhibits of popular art and organize meetings, congresses, writers' roundtables, and artistic events that are representative of the two cultures. With the support of their respective governments, museums and national archives will exchange photographic and microfilm copies and other similar items on places, buildings, documents, furniture, customs, iconographic material, and other objects pertaining to the historical heritage of the two countries. They will also promote cooperation between their official radio and television stations to broadcast educational, cultural, artistic, and sports programs.

5. To strengthen the formation of human resources in Honduras, the two leaders agree that the Belizean Government will provide qualified teachers to help teach English.

6. As for natural resources, the Honduran Government invited the Belizean tourism minister to participate in the first national ecotourism congress to identify possible areas of cooperation.

The Honduran Government approves of the Belizean Government's initiative to request membership in the Central American Tourism Council and offers its support to secure its membership as soon as possible. The Honduran Government will expedite the ratification of the Tourism Cooperation Agreement signed by the two countries to give it complete validity in the development of tourism.

7. The rulers voiced satisfaction upon learning of the progress made by the Belizean and Honduran Public Health Ministries, especially in the establishment and implementation of reciprocal technical aid to improve the two countries' health sectors.

8. To protect, preserve, improve, and rationally use natural marine resources in the region of the Gulf of Honduras, they agree to draft a coordinated proposal to ban the fishing of lobster and other species of the region by taking into account biological and economic considerations and by adopting concerted actions with those affected.

They also agree to support regional initiatives on the conservation and management of protected areas in Central America that are recommended by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature through the Commission of Natural Parks and Protected Areas and the Central American Commission on Environment and Development.

9. The Honduran Government, through the National Port Enterprise, is ready to send technicians to Belize to assess the needs of that country's port system and offer the necessary aid.

On behalf of the Central American transportation ministers, the Honduran Government urges the Belizean Government to analyze the possibility of having its Transportation Ministry join the Reunion of Central American Transportation Ministers and participate in an upcoming meeting during the first trimester of this year.

10. Belizean Prime Minister George Price voiced interest in a Honduran Government initiative to build a highway, with financial backing from the Central American Integration Bank, to join Puerto Cortes, Honduras and Puerto Barrios, Guatemala.

The two rulers decided to conduct a study on the feasibility and means by which Belize could connect itself to this highway project. They will make efforts to this end in the short term.

11. Reaffirm the need to establish actions to increase trade between the two countries. To this effect the ministers of economy will be asked to draft as soon as possible a "trade and investment agreement" that takes the nature of their economies into account.

12. Continue to cooperate in establishing a common front against the illegal trafficking and consumption of drugs and psychotropic substances, which undermine health, human well-being, and the states' economic, social, and political structures.

13. President of the Republic Rafael Leonardo Callejas voiced his satisfaction with the firm rapprochement and understanding reached between the Republic of Guatemala and Belize that contribute to the consolidation of peace and permanent stability in the region, in keeping with the principles of international law.

14. Both rulers voiced their satisfaction with the ministerial conference of the countries of the Central American isthmus and the Caribbean Common Market (CARICOM) in San Pedro Sula on 28 through 31 January 1992 in response to the Belizean prime minister's call on February 1991 for rapprochement and integration between the two regions.

15. The two rulers reaffirm their conviction that the promotion and respect of the fundamental rights and liberties of their peoples and an effective administration of justice are essential elements to strengthen the democratic and representative system of government.

16. President Rafael Leonardo Callejas voiced his satisfaction with the outstanding participation of Mr. George Price as observer at the 11th presidential summit in Tegucigalpa on 12 and 13 December 1991, which will lead to the incorporation of Belize into the isthmus' integration process in the near future.

17. Convinced that regional peace constitutes an essential factor in the economic, political, and social development of the Central American peoples, the two rulers voiced their satisfaction with the recent peace agreement attained by the government of the Republic of El Salvador and the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front. They decided to maintain their support for all national and regional efforts to strengthen stable and lasting peace in Central America.

18. The two rulers reaffirmed their support for the OAS decision on the establishment of a constitutional government in Haiti.

19. Finally, Prime Minister George Price thanked the people and Government of Honduras for their expressions of friendship and hospitality toward him and his delegation during their stay in the country.

Rafael Leonardo Callejas Romero, president of the Republic of Honduras
George Price, prime minister of Belize
Tegucigalpa, 29 January 1992

### Congress Condemns Execution of Cuban Citizen

*PA0102043792 San Pedro Sula LA PRENSA in Spanish 31 Jan 92 p 10*

[Text] Tegucigalpa—The National Congress on 30 January approved a resolution condemning the execution of a Cuban citizen accused of treason against the fatherland by Fidel Castro's government.

The resolution was proposed by Marco Augusto Hernandez, first vice president of the Chamber, who described the action as a violation of the UN Charter on Human Rights.

The text of the resolution condemned "the actions carried out by the Government of the Republic of Cuba against citizens who were sentenced as a result of hasty trials, an anachronistic procedure in modern times."

The document "urges the Cuban Government to give complete freedom of action to people opposed to the government."

The resolution ordered that the Central American legislative assemblies and congresses be informed of "our rejection of the shameful and regrettable incidents in Cuba."

The Assembly plenum unanimously approved Hernandez' motion.

## Nicaragua

### Recontras Attack Disarmament Group Vehicles

*PA0102034992 Managua Radio Ya in Spanish 1100 GMT 31 Jan 92*

[Text] Reports received from Matagalpa say Jose Angel Moran Flores, also known as El Indomable, was attacked by two recontra leaders on the evening of 30 January. The report states that four Special Disarmament Brigades, BED, vehicles were ambushed at approximately 2000 by armed men led by recontra leaders William and Mario in a rural zone of Matagalpa.

Major Ivan Portocarrero, chief of the Sandinist People's Army staff in the 6th Region, confirmed the information. It is uncertain if El Indomable was wounded in the attack. The report only said the four BED vehicles were strafed.

Regarding Moran Flores' presence in the motorcade, El Indomable had reportedly just delivered an arms cache to the BED brigades.

Maj. Portocarrero said measures will immediately be taken against recontra leaders William and Mario, whose terrorist actions violate the law.

### Recontra Group Agrees To Join Dialogue, Disarm

*PA0302162192 Managua Radio Nicaragua Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 3 Feb 92*

[Text] A government commission presided over by Government Minister Carlos Hurtado met a recontra commission led by Francisco Baldivia, alias Commander Dimas, reached an important accord on 2 February. A meeting was held at the Santa Marta Church in Managua under the auspices of Cardinal Miguel Obando y Bravo.

The accord establishes that the group of recontras led by Commander Dimas will join the dialogue and disarmament process and that two security zones will be created, one in San Jose de Bocay and another in (?Pitas del Carmen). The accord also determines that the government will provide food, medicine, and transportation to the recontras.

Another meeting will be held on 7 February and the recontras will disarm themselves on 9 February.

### Foreign Cooperation Minister on German Aid

*PA0302170792 Managua Radio Nicaragua Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 3 Feb 92*

[Text] This year Nicaragua hopes to receive economic assistance estimated at $60 million from Germany, which will help to promote the economic recovery of our country. During a news conference, Dr. Erwin Krugger, foreign cooperation minister of Nicaragua, noted the importance of the visit by Dr. Carol-Dieter Spranger, German economic cooperation minister, given the economic strength of that country and its desire to help us overcome our problems.

[Begin Krugger recording] We believe that the visit by Dr. Spranger is very important for the country, given the economic strength of Germany and its desire for cooperation. As part of this cooperation program, Germany unfroze 52 million German marks [DM], which were disbursed last year, to support the stabilization plan. This year, we hope to receive DM95 million, which was promised to President Chamorro during her visit to Germany. After renegotiating our debt with the Paris Club, we will begin to use these funds. Of these funds, DM70 million will be used for financial assistance and the remaining amount will be devoted to technical cooperation in different projects, including the Karl Marx Hospital.

As part of this visit, Minister Spranger and I will sign a structural assistance accord, which is part of the second disbursement that will be made by the World Bank and the IMF. This will help us begin the economic recovery this year. This accord will be officially signed [words indistinct] to negotiate the debt with Germany, within the framework of negotiations of the Paris Club.

During the visit by Minister Spranger, we will sign a structural assistance accord for DM30 million, which will be followed by an interbank accord between KSW [not further identified] and the Central Bank of Nicaragua.

For 1992, we expect to receive German economic assistance estimated at DM95 million, which is approximately a little over $60 million. We believe that Germany will continue to support us in the future, as it has been doing until now. [end recording]

### IDB, Others Grant Energy Program Loans

*PA0102034792 Managua Sistema Nacional de Television Network in Spanish 0230 GMT 31 Jan 92*

[From the "Extravision" newscast, directed by Manuel Espinoza, former information minister during President Daniel Ortega's government]

[Text] The Inter-American Development Bank [IDB] granted a $19-million loan to Nicaragua on 30 January. The funds will be used for Nicaraguan Energy Institute programs. The programs will also be financed with loans from the Central American Bank of Economic Integration, the Mexican Government, and the Nordic Fund for Development, whose contribution will be $3 million.

### EPS Announces U.S. Army Group's Arrival

*PA0202151892 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 31 Jan 92 pp 1, 19*

[Text] The Sandinist People's Army, EPS, announced on 30 January that "a U.S. Army technical work group will arrive in the country on 1 February to participate in meetings and analyze the possibility of establishing cooperation" in the field of weapons and ammunition control.

An EPS spokesman asserted that the U.S. Army work group will not intervene in the disarmament of civilians, thus clarifying Government Minister Carlos Hurtado's statements on the issue.

Hurtado met with the National Assembly Human Rights Commission on 30 January and said that a U.S. Army commission would arrive in the country to cooperate in the preparation of a national inventory of weapons in civilian hands.

Hurtado's statements provoked speculation about the U.S. troops' participation in the disarmament, but this was categorically denied by the EPS.

According to a communique from the EPS General Command Public and Foreign Relations Directorate, a special commission for the control of weapons and ammunition was created in December of 1991. The commission coordinated everything with its counterpart in the Government Ministry.

Also, "within the framework of relations between Nicaraguan and U.S. Armed Forces, our corps requested—through the Government Ministry—advice in that field," the EPS reported.

The special commission is led by Colonel Lenin Cerna, head of the Defense Information Commission. It is also comprises Col. Omar Hallesleven and Col. Roberto Calderon, chiefs of the Military Counterintelligence Directorate and Logistics Directorate, respectively.

During his meeting with the National Assembly Human Rights Commission, Hurtado said many weapons are "floating around" in the country, and civilians have thousands of weapons caches.

"The disarmament problem is what affects our people the most," Hurtado said. Nevertheless, he said, the disarmament must be preceded by the demobilization of irregular groups.

The demobilization process will be followed by multiple efforts to place all the weapons in the country under the control of the legal authorities, he asserted.

The minister said the main goal of the second phase will be the disarmament of all the cooperatives, "regardless

of whose side they are on." Lieutenant Colonel Ramon Ernesto Soza, member of the Special Disarmament Brigade, BED, recently announced operations in four conflictive cooperatives in Jinotega Department.

Hurtado explained to the National Assembly Human Rights Commission the situation prevailing among groups that operate in the 1st, 5th, and 6th Regions.

He said on 30 January that meetings were held with the recontras in Nueva Guinea; that additional peace talks will be held on 31 January with other irregular groups; and that 3 February is considered "a critical date within the demobilization process."

The lack of coordination between the municipalities and the central government precluded the delivery of urban land plots offered to demobilized EPS and Government Ministry members. That was one of the reasons why the recompas were created.

The recontras were also created for social and economic reasons. Lack of security and land is very much an issue within the two irregular groups.

Hurtado denied reports that large amounts of dollars are being given to demobilized fighters, "but it is true that we have assumed social pledges to facilitate their reinsertion in civilian life."

Nevertheless, he said, "the recompas and recontras existence is being used by bands of criminals to carry out their activities."

"We will protect the citizenry by fighting these groups of criminals" in coordination with the EPS, he warned. "Those who fail to join the negotiation process will become outlaws," he emphasized.

Commission Chairman Luis Enrique Figueroa notified the minister that the commission members had agreed by consensus to ask the government "to deal firmly" with the rearmed groups.

The commission members include Deputies Delvis Montiel, Ivan Salvador Madriz, Anibal Martinez, and Daniel Tate of the National Opposition Unity; and Luis Enrique Figueroa and Benigna Mendiola of the Sandinist National Liberation Front.

## * Executive, FSLN-Labor Alliances Criticized

### * Pact With Executive Viewed

*92CA0072A Managua LA PRENSA in Spanish 5 Jan 92 p 4*

[Commentary by Emilio Alvarez Montalvan]

[Text] The New Year brings some ominous news: the coalition of democratic parties which brought this government into office has lost the legislative majority it won in the 1990 elections. This happened because the Executive has decided to govern by "consensus" with the minority Sandinist Front, turning away from its natural allies.

This new situation has converted the FSLN [Sandinist National Liberation Front] into a "de facto" government party, and the one which won the elections into a minority. The nine UNO [National Opposition Union] deputies who "went over the wall" to form a part of that combination assume a very grave historic responsibility.

In such conditions, UNO had no other alternative but to approve or reject the bilateral agreements reached "ex camara" and in secret between the Executive and the FSLN. With that agreement worked out, the announced trilateral talks will be irrelevant, unless they are preceded by government agreements with the complete UNO.

Moreover, the present Executive's behavior in relation to the FSLN raises three questions. 1) Why did UNO win the elections, if it was not going to become a decisive factor of power? 2) Why does the Executive prefer to govern with Sandinism? 3) What are the effects of governing "by consensus"?

Two theories have been advanced concerning the first two points. They need to be analyzed so that we can reach some conclusions.

The first hypothesis says that the policy of strategic appeasement of the FSLN makes it possible to govern in peace, at least while economic issues are being settled.

According to this hypothesis, the dispute about the private property stolen under Decrees 84, 85, and 86 is of no importance, as the case just affects 3,000 people who make up barely 1 percent of the population. From that point of view, this "alliance" should be temporary, and would be corrected in the mid-term. The sponsors of this alliance consider it a special, pragmatic association as the government lacks an "armed hand" of its own to enforce the laws. In addition, they continue, the Executive feels it is more effective to get along with the people (the Ortega Saavedra brothers) who control an organized and strong party and who have extremely powerful influence in the army and police, rather than to negotiate with 14 party heads who are unable to inspire confidence in each other, in order to select a committee of three permanent delegates with full powers. Finally, they say, by using this "consensus" policy, they have managed to bring hyperinflation under control, to get Nicaragua's substantial foreign debt in order to obtain generous loans, and to keep the value of the cordoba stable.

The other hypothesis is that this FSLN pacification policy is not a temporary, but a strategic plan. The nucleus of the government team would rather work with Sandinists for the simple reason that they feel more sympathy or affinity with the Sandinists, with whom they had "pleasant and useful" personal relations even before the election victory. In this hypothesis, the government leaders consider themselves a team of trainers,

or facilitators, for converting Sandinism to the traditional workings of democracy, Nicaraguan style. Finally, the climate of detente this has produced helps the "fat cats" of Sandinism to remain enthusiastic about business and to forget about agitation and terrorism. With such assumptions operating, this alliance should last for at least the next 20 years and serve as a base for a "center" political combination.

No matter which of the two interpretations is accepted, the truth is that this special "association" based on "consensus" has already produced whatever it was going to produce. From now on, the nation's fundamental problems will not be solved by this scenario of "unanimity." The obvious reason is that the Sandinist Front will never accept effective solutions for our accumulated difficulties.

There is another problem. Instead of helping Sandinism to mature, this policy of "acquiescence" causes the Sandinists to believe this to be structural weakness on the part of a government cut off from its own grassroots. Consequently, they do not see any need to eliminate the steady pressures they are maintaining, which for them is only an instrument of government....

So we may be certain that the strikes will continue, along with the invasions of lands, the takeovers of public buildings and private companies, the refusal to restore property, the obstacles to privatization, the absence of a state of law or the democratization of the army and police, etc., etc.

As for the much used and abused mechanism of "consensus," we must say that while in specific situations it is necessary to work out a compromise through dialogue, as a general and everyday government policy it is fatally flawed, for it causes self-mutilation and paralysis. When the government chose the mechanism of "unanimity" with the opposition, it cancelled out the democratic majority-minority dynamics provided by the majority which it had with UNO in the Assembly, and left itself to the mercies of the Sandinist veto.

What the government will in reality design if this policy is not corrected is a "reformed Sandinism" or "the possible revolution."

That is not what the Nicaraguan people voted for. The president of the republic should think seriously about this, because she is going to be held responsible.

### * Labor Violence Discussed

*92CA0072B Managua LA PRENSA in Spanish 5 Jan 92 p 4*

[Commentary by Alfonso Moncada Guillen]

[Text] It is strange that no one has commented on what Daniel Ortega recently said about the moral collapse in his political party. Talk of a crisis and self-criticisms about a lack of identity with revolutionary principles have gone without comment. There has been no echo of these warnings within Sandinism; the Sandinists have turned a deaf ear, and kept quiet. These are foreboding symptoms of only wanting to hear good news; this is an erroneous course which will make it impossible to resolve this identity crisis which, in essence, is the burden of Sandinism.

Speaking of a lack of identity with revolutionary moral values, it is appropriate to analyze the relationship between trade unionism and the Sandinist party, since a number of the events which periodically shake up society arise from these relations.

A very special relationship has been established between the Front's political goals and the economic aims of the working class, one which is rather remote from the dialectical dependency described in textbooks. This is a "tactical alliance" based on agitation and violence to achieve special ends, political ends for one group and economic goals for the other. Forcing a major concession here and a smaller one there, Sandinism and trade unionism achieve mutual gains for each other, ignoring this method's violation of political and revolutionary moral values.

With these gains wrested by violence or threats of violence, the high cost of living seems less troublesome, and this somewhat alleviates families' economic worries. This is an easy way to produce short-term benefits, but it is a course that always leads to instability and it must be corrected quickly, before pocketbooks are completely empty and there is nothing left for anyone. Such a situation is an ideal breeding ground for social turmoil.

The partners in this tactical alliance confront the government and society as a whole with destabilizing agitation and violence. This is a very special form of union activism, one which tosses civilized gains overboard and raises destructive banners, ignoring the fact that such tactics may be immoral, illegal, and antidemocratic. The important thing is that they work for the two partners in the alliance.

These are the workers who said they would achieve their aims, the same ones who took advantage of 25 February to demand their freedom. Will these same workers have the mentality of slaves? Will they decide to return to their chains again? Definitely not. They have decided to make use of Sandinism's political need for an immediate struggle for survival, postponing the true labor struggle within a democratic framework.

Doing away with this temporary alliance of interests and institutionalizing the social issues at stake is the same thing as talking of the rule of law and order. Only aggression could justify violence, but no one here is attacking the working class; in any case, it is the people inciting the working class to resort to agitation and violence who are hurting the workers. Just and honorable relations need to be established, replacing the

immoral parameters of struggle being used by this alliance of interests. At some point they will have to put an end to these methods, or it will mean the end of social coexistence.

Whether people believe this or not, after each disturbance, blackmail, or "peaceful takeover," the agitating forces of the alliance emerge weakened. The more violent the action, the greater the repudiation, and the more difficult it becomes to justify these methods, which always increase the gap between the social cost and the objectives attained. Society as a whole, feeling itself threatened by the use of force (agitation and violence), displays its distaste for these tactics. Now that the climax has passed and before new variables have been introduced, they are in the process of redrafting the terms of this alliance, which we hope will be different for the coming year.

## Panama

### Government Reportedly Wants To Talk to Terrorists

*PA0402025192 Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish 3 Feb 92 p 1*

[Text] A source, who asked to remain anonymous, has said key Panamanian public security officials believe negotiations with the perpetrators of the latest terrorist attacks are a "must" to avoid a continuation of criminal activities of this nature.

The source said negotiations would be with former military elements who have been using the "Colombian ticketing" system. This system consists "of obtaining things through the threat of bombings and kidnapings."

The source said that a short time ago the authorities obtained information about the existence of a plan to kidnap important public officials and private citizens. Combined with the recent terrorist attacks, this has "inhibited the people directing public security, who are now trying to establish contact with the terrorists."

Around the middle of last year, former Major Victor Herrera (brother of former Colonel Eduardo Herrera) "established contact with Menalco Solis, executive secretary of the Public Security and National Defense Council," the source said.

According to the source, Herrera told Solis they "promise to stop the robberies and street attacks. They will also guarantee public security in exchange for retirement benefits for military personnel discharged and not incorporated into the Public Force after 20 December [1989], and for the rehiring of recently retired elements.

Another condition was that the legal case against Eduardo Herrera and some military personnel involved in the 4 and 5 December military uprising be dismissed.

The source noted: "This proposal was disregarded by the people in charge of public security."

The source said that some weeks ago, more than 20 of these former military elements met with an important government official at the Soloy Hotel and presented their requests.

The official said he would pass the requests on to the government. Time passed without an answer, however, and then the attacks began.

The official said government intelligence agents' spirits waned when Ricardo Herrera, alias Martillo, would not admit to participating in terrorist attacks, not "even after being offered a public post."

The source then said that "since the state's security organizations have been unable to stop the wave of attacks, high government officials such as Menalco Solis and Rogelio Cruz see that to stop these threats the only alternative is to negotiate."

According to the source, Attorney General Cruz has proposed eliminating the source of the popular uprisings by "calling for the suspension of the debate on the transportation bill; the cancellation of the voluntary retirement plan; the exclusion of the agriculture and livestock sector from the Ford Plan; and for satisfying the labor aspiration of the country's teachers."

The source said that "the attorney general held a meeting with top leaders of the Christian Democratic Party on 29 January and plans to meet with government party representatives in the next few days."

The source said the attorney general is presenting the true situation to the country's political leadership because "democracy is dangling from a thread and the security organizations have been unable to stem the latest wave of terrorism."

The source said that while it is true the terrorists are not organized, "they are gaining strength and the authorities know they have friends within the Police and the Judicial Technical Police who pass them information."

The source said the authorities fear that at a given moment the police and the PTJ may decide not to follow orders, and this possibility makes talks with the terrorists viable and practical.

The source noted that the authorities usually do not negotiate with terrorists or so-called terrorists "but instead strengthen antiterrorist groups to face them. However, this cannot be done here because the authorities are not sure how the police may react at a critical moment, which is what happened on 4 and 5 December 1990."

In December 1990, during the coup attempt led by former Colonel Herrera, the current deputy director of the police, Dario Arrue, "sent a corporal to tell Deputy Government Minister Ramon Lima that he, Arrue, could not heed his call because he was sleeping."

The source recalled that "Eduardo Herrera's escape took place, practically with the consent of his prison guards, who did not dare confront him.

### Chevalier Denies Negotiations

*PA0402032092 Panama City Telemetro Television Network in Spanish 1720 GMT 3 Feb 92*

[Text] Despite the fact that the investigation of the recent subversive attacks have not yielded positive results, Juan Chevalier, government and justice minister, has rejected reports that the government is negotiating with these groups.

[Begin recording] [Chevalier] I would say that no serious government can negotiate with terrorists. Therefore, I do not know where this report came from.

[Reporter] Now that the Southern Command has confirmed the existence of the M-20 [20 December Movement], what measures will the government take to prevent terrorist acts from occurring?

[Chevalier] What North Americans say is one thing, and what Panamanians believe is another. We do not always agree with the North Americans, right?

[Reporter] To what extent have these alleged subversive groups been neutralized?

[Chevalier] I do not know to what extent they have been neutralized. Honestly, this is a very difficult question to answer. We all agree, however, that the worst has passed. Therefore, they must have more problems that we do.

[Reporter] What is the status of the investigations on these attacks?

[Chevalier] The investigations are the responsibility of the Judicial Technical Police [PTJ]. I would prefer that the PTJ explain, because I do not want to say something that may hinder the investigations. This is the sole responsibility of the PTJ, not the Government and Justice Ministry.

[Reporter] Will the government take additional measures, depending on the magnitude of these actions?

[Chevalier] We will use all legal means available to us. At certain times, the legal means may or may not be enough. I do not know, but we will only use the legal means. We will never use illegal means; we will never torture anyone or violate individual human rights to obtain information. That makes our job more difficult, but we are not a dictatorship. A democracy functions a little slower than a dictatorship, but it is the only safe way to keep this country moving in the direction all Panamanians want it to move. [end recording]

### Attorney General Comments

*PA0402080892 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 2300 GMT 3 Feb 92*

[Text] Attorney General Rogelio Cruz said on 3 February that the government has not held any negotiations with subversive groups during the last two years. He believes large demonstrations may serve as a means to create chaos in our country.

[Begin Cruz recording] As attorney general, I have a very specific task: fighting crime. To negotiate with people who violate criminal law is not part of my job. Then again, I think the term negotiation is a very clear one. To negotiate implies that the two sides give something up in exchange for something else, and I really cannot see what the people who are breaking the law by committing these types of crimes can offer at this time. [end recording]

Based on a theory that human actions are responses to situations that may or may not be just, the attorney general suggested the government carry out a complete analysis of the situations that give rise to these terrorist attacks and propose ways to eliminate the causes of conflict. Cruz did not rule out the possibility that the strike called by the transportation workers may be used to perpetrate destabilizing acts.

[Begin Cruz recording] It is evident that the two previous attempts--I am referring to the October protests and the December 1990 coup attempts—occurred under circumstances where various sectors in the country were publicly demonstrating their feelings. I believe that was actually an attempt to take advantage of a situation. So large demonstrations—with or without the participation of those who have organized the demonstration—could, at any given time, offer a sufficiently appropriate environment for other types of action. [end recording]

President Guillermo Endara, in a letter to each member of the Council for Public Security and National Defense, stressed that no executive branch official is authorized to begin any negotiations with members of subversive groups. He further affirmed that negotiations with such groups are absolutely forbidden.

### Weapons Cache Seized; Policeman Implicated

*PA0402035992 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 2300 GMT 3 Feb 92*

[Text] Police found seven AK-47 rifles with clips and 3,000 rounds of live ammunition during a raid at the Pedro Miguel mechanics shop in Curundu Corregimiento. According to a report by Jaime Abad, director of the Judicial Technical Police [PTJ], an active duty officer is connected with the weapons.

[Begin Abad recording] We raided the place and seized seven AK-47 rifles with their clips and approximately 3,000 rounds of live ammunition. For now, four people are under arrest, including a former member of the Panama Defense Forces. These four people have

informed us that an active member of the police force is implicated or is a participant in this illegal act. We are coordinating the policeman's transfer here for questioning. [end recording]

PTJ Director Jaime Abad would not give further information on the event or the name and rank of the policeman implicated in the operation because the investigation is continuing. The precise origin of the weapons is also unknown.

### PTJ Reportedly Raids Former President's Home

*PA3101215692 Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish 31 Jan 92 p1A*

[Text] On 30 January, members of the Judicial Technical Police (PTJ) and officials from the Assistant District Attorney's Office raided the residence of Francisco Rodriguez, former president and former comptroller general of Panama. Rodriguez is being charged with embezzling $6 million from a joint project between the Panamanian Tourism Institute and the Inter-American Development Bank [IDB].

Alma Lopez, Rodriguez' attorney, noted that the PTJ arrived at Rodriguez' home with a search warrant and an arrest warrant, but Rodriguez' "whereabouts are unknown."

Lopez stressed that Rodriguez is being accused of "allegedly" embezzling $6 million dollars donated by the IDB for the improvement of an old section of Panama City but stated that her client is not involved in the case.

Francisco Rodriguez was named president of Panama by the Council of State—controlled by former General Noriega—on September 1989 to fill the power vacuum left by the annulment of the May 1989 presidential elections.

### Students Arrested at Fuertes Caminos Inauguration

*PA0102033592 Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 31 Jan 92 pp a-1, a-2*

[By James Aparicio]

[Excerpts] More than 6,000 soldiers of the Army National Guard, Army reserves of the 41st Air Support Group, and the 128th Airborne Brigade of Army South that is stationed in Panama will participate in the Fuertes Caminos '92 program.

President Guillermo Endara and Southern Command Chief General George Joulwan inaugurated the program during a ceremony in which Education Minister Marco Alarcon, Public Works Minister Alfredo Arias, and several provincial officials delivered speeches. [passage omitted]

President Endara described Fuertes Caminos '92 as a "combined effort" that will benefit needy people in the country's farming areas.

Plainclothed policemen arrested two university students on 30 January in Montijo, Veraguas Province as they were about to burn a U.S. flag after the inauguration of the Fuertes Caminos '92 joint civic action maneuvers.

The arrests took place after about 15 demonstrators tried to display a banner with the inscription "Yankee troops out of Panama" in front of the Adolfo J. Fabrega School where the inauguration ceremony was being held. [passage omitted]

Priest Conrado Sanjur, a spokesman for the demonstrators, who are members of the Nationalist and Democratic Struggle [Jornada Nacionalista y Democratica], said that Montijo Mayor Miguel Pimentel ordered the police to arrest students Erick Rivera and Jorge Guzman.

Agents of the Institutional Protection Service, Customs Directorate, and even a plainclothed U.S. citizen participated in the repression of the demonstrators.

### Linares Comments on Project

*PA0202172092 Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish 2 Feb 92 p 1A*

[Article by Manuel Alvarez Cedeno]

[Text] In responding to opposition to the "Fuertes Caminos '92" project in which U.S. Army South soldiers repair streets and schools in the country's interior, Panamanian Foreign Minister Julio Linares said that if government funds were used for infrastructure works during the 21 years the country was governed by the military, "the U.S. Army's help to repair schools and roads would not be necessary at present."

Linares said: "I am sure that if government funds had been used to repair streets and schools during that period instead of filling the pockets of a few, it would not be necessary for U.S. soldiers to do this type of work."

According to the opposition, "Fuertes Caminos" conceals a well-structured espionage, penetration, and alienation program.

Referring to the Democratic Revolutionary Party [PRD] protests, Linares said: "They should keep in mind that the U.S. military is here because the now deceased General Omar Torrijos legalized their presence in the Torrijos-Carter Treaties, which the PRD hailed."

The "Fuertes Caminos '92" project provides support for the repair of schools and streets, Linares said.

The PRD has reported that the U.S. military participating in the project have a stock of military armament in Veraguas. Linares denied any knowledge of this.

More than 6,000 members of the National Guard, U.S. Air Force 41st Support Group, and U.S. Army South 128th Brigade stationed in Panama participate in "Fuertes Caminos '92."

In 1990, the U.S. Army completed 75 projects, including the repair of 46 schools, 14 bridges, and 500 km of roads. In 1991, 86 schools, as well as 38 clinics and hospitals, were rebuilt.

## Country Submits Request for GATT Membership

*PA0302173592 Panama City EL PANAMA AMERICA in Spanish 3 Feb 92 p 11-A*

[Article by Lucas R. Aleman H.]

[Text] Roberto Alfaro, commerce and industry minister, informed EL PANAMA AMERICA that Panama has filed a formal request for membership in GATT.

The agreement seeks to broaden international trade for the purpose of achieving higher levels of income and improved standards of living on the planet.

Through GATT, mechanisms will be established to liberalize world trade and eliminate elements that hinder commercial relations.

The worldwide trend toward economic liberalization has prompted over 100 countries to participate in the GATT's eighth round of negotiations, known as the Uruguay Round.

Alfaro pointed out that as an applicant, Panama is attending the meetings that are under way in Geneva as a "listener and observer."

Asked about Panama's late participation in the negotiations, Alfaro blamed the military government's attitude of "attaching little importance to the economic changes the country needed."

He announced that President Endara's government has, for the past two years, taken the necessary steps to incorporate Panama into GATT.

Alfaro described the negotiations for admission to GATT as "difficult and costly."

The Commerce and Trade minister explained that Panama has sought technical advise from various international institutions to form a technical negotiations team that will have the resources to do "a good job on this delicate issue."

Efforts by the Endara administration to modernize and liberalize the economy have been strongly opposed by a broad range of pressure groups.

Panama's induction into GATT is expected to generate opposition from certain trade unions.

Alfaro said that at present "the minimal conditions" for Panama's admission to GATT are being considered, and consultations are under way with several trade unions concerning the changes that membership in GATT will allow.

"The GATT, as any agreement, has years for its implementation," Alfaro explained, adding that it is not a rigid treaty but one that includes issues that can be resolved immediately and others that will be given long-term evaluation.

The farming sector is the most complicated issue at the Uruguay Round. Alfaro said this is because the large economic powers participating in the negotiations—United States, Japan, and the EEC—maintain subsidies and finance their farming sectors.

This is to the detriment of countries such as Panama, whose farmers receive no subsidies for their crops.

Alfaro gave assurances that the necessary consultations will be carried out with local farmers to protect the sector once Panama is a member of GATT.

He concluded by pointing out that Panama "is very interested" in being admitted to GATT, and its admission is a condition for the ratification of a free trade treaty with the United States.

## Argentina

### Menem Talks to Perez on Venezuelan Coup Attempt

*PY0402103292 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1009 GMT 4 Feb 92*

[Text] Buenos Aires, 4 Feb (TELAM)—President Carlos Menem has said that Carlos Andres Perez, his Venezuelan colleague, has told him that the military coup attempt in Venezuela "is definitively under control and democracy continues."

During a radio interview, Menem added: "The presidents of Latin America are preparing a document in which they express their support for the democratic government of Venezuela. This document will be made public in the next few hours."

### Di Tella on Export of Nuclear Material to Iran

*PY0302143692 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1400 GMT 3 Feb 92*

[Text] Buenos Aires, 3 Feb (TELAM)—Foreign Minister Guido di Tella today denied reports that Argentina had canceled an export shipment of nuclear material to Iran, but he made it clear that "we are waiting for Iran to sign the safeguards and to behave in such a way that it would allow us to make the shipment."

Di Tella said: "We are waiting for Iran to sign the safeguards and to behave in such a way on the nuclear issue to allow us to make the shipment." He added that "otherwise, export will not be feasible."

In remarks made at the Jorge Newbery Metropolitan Airport on his return from Punta del Este, Di Tella described as "totally false" some press reports indicating that an attempt was made to change the presidential delegation to the EC.

In this regard, Di Tella denied a report by the morning newspaper AMBITO FINANCIERO that he tried to replace Deputy Felipe Sola with Eduardo Amadeo. Di Tella said: "We have extended an invitation to the Radical Civic Union to designate a deputy who would take part in the presidential delegation."

Di Tella also described as "totally false" the interpretation made by the press of his remarks concerning Argentine Ambassador to Chile Antonio Cafiero.

### Agreement Signed to Purchase Bolivian Gas

*PY0302192392 Buenos Aires CLARIN in Spanish 2 Feb 92 p 11*

[Text] Argentine Foreign Minister Guido di Tella and Bolivian Foreign Minister Carlos Iturralde Ballivian yesterday signed an agreement establishing procedures under which Argentina will purchase Bolivian gas. These procedures will be incorporated into the agreement to be signed on 20 March in the Bolivian city of Santa Cruz de la Sierra.

The two ministers issued a joint statement in which they note the "comprehensive, satisfactory agreement reached over the procedures to be followed in future gas purchases."

Regarding the awarding of contracts for the Palmar Grande-Camiri and Desemboque-Bermejo road projects, Bolivia presented reports that will be discussed by the Monitoring Committee of the Binational Permanent Integration Council which is scheduled to meet soon to discuss and approve these projects.

The Coordination Committee will also seek a final solution to the location of the duty-free zone granted to Bolivia in the port of Rosario.

### Menem Signs Decree Opening Files on Nazis

*PY0302195492 Buenos Aires Radio Nacional Network in Spanish 1500 GMT 3 Feb 92*

[Report by Silvina Martinez Porta from Government House]

[Text] A few minutes ago, President Carlos Menem and Interior Minister Jose Luis Manzano signed a decree opening secret files on the arrival and activities of Nazi criminals in Argentina. In a hall full of government officials, lawmakers, and special guests, Menem and Manzano signed the decree that, among other things, states that it is intended to satisfy the desire of the Argentine people to bring the activities of Nazi criminals in Argentina to light.

Commenting on the opening of these secret files, President Menem made the following statement:

[Begin recording] As the interior minister just said, we have quickly decided to display these documents for all humanity to see. Thus, it will be possible to investigate and delve into what was undoubtedly one of the harshest blows against all peoples of the world, unleashed by an insane individual and his followers.

This decree is very clear, and we do not plan to stop at these documents. All Argentine Government agencies must go through their files and records and send all documents that could facilitate investigations into these events to the nation's central archives to help us prevent a repetition of such deeds.

As the minister just said, this does not amount to much in terms of concrete achievements; however, its moral and ethical value is great. The important thing for us is to begin with these documents and to continue searching our records and files for items related to the presence in Argentina of those who have been called war criminals. Although the worst harm was inflicted on the people who were killed, these criminals also damaged the legal, political, social, and ethical structure of humanity. [end recording]

President Menem also said that Argentina is thus paying its debt to humanity. He also quoted Winston Churchill

to the effect that truth is the first casualty in any war. Menem stressed that hiding the truth is definitely bad, and for 40 years Argentina has been hiding the truth about something everyone wanted to know. Both Menem and Manzano noted how they found out about the international community's interest in the subject, which happened during President Menem's trip to the United States last year.

Members of the Argentine and Latin American Jewish communities, ministers, the speakers for the Chamber of Deputies and the Senate, the leaders of the Radical Civic Union blocs in both chambers, and other government officials attended the ceremony.

### UCR To Participate in Political Dialogue

*PY0102152492 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 2242 GMT 31 Jan 92*

[Text] Buenos Aires, 31 Jan (TELAM)—Interior Minister Jose Luis Manzano conveyed tonight the government's "great satisfaction" over the Radical Civic Union's [UCR] decision to participate in the political dialogue. He announced that the several commissions that will analyze the proposed issues "will begin work on 18 February." Manzano made these remarks in the Government House press room after a meeting with members of the UCR national committee headed by Mario Losada.

Manzano said: "The country will address us" during the political dialogue through "very useful proposals on the concern over the reaffirmation of the independence of the three branches, the strengthening of the Republic system, the need to reinforce the implementation of administrative control to prevent corruption, and environmental matters."

In this regard, Manzano also noted that the government itself ordered the creation of the Natural Resources and Environment Secretariat.

### Constitutional Reform Issues, Proposals Discussed

*PY3101233492 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 31 Jan 92 p 11*

[Text] (NA-DYN)—President Carlos Menem and other government officials as well as politicians commented yesterday on the impending reform of the country's Constitution and possibility of presidential re-election, which have been on the minds of many leaders.

In statements made yesterday to the media, Menem reiterated his "firm aim not to discuss" changing the Constitution to allow a president to run for two consecutive terms, saying the issue was "secondary" to that of reforming the document. "I don't want to get involved in this subject because the first thing that will be said is that Menem is claiming his re-election," said the head of state. While insisting that he wanted to "return to my province and work in my profession," the President was careful not to close any doors, adding, "You know that politics are highly unpredictable."

Another area of constitutional reform Menem termed important was the elimination of the electoral-college system.

The president's brother, Provisional Senate President Eduardo Menem, took a conciliatory tone toward revamping the Constitution. In comments to the press yesterday the senator said that any changes must be made with the "consensus" of the country's different political powers in order that the alterations not be interpreted as an "imposition" of the party in power. The inclusion of a discussion on presidential re-election "should not be an obstacle to change," he emphasized.

Meanwhile, the Justicialist Party took a decisive step toward modifying the Constitution when its National Council announced yesterday that a commission led by Carlos Corach and Cesar Arias would summon party experts to hammer out a proposal for changing the document. The Justicialists' action drew the ire of San Luis Senator Alberto Rodriguez Saa, who blasted his party for jumping the gun when "no serious country begins to move its political parties in preparation for an election four years away." Rodriguez Saa said that the reform impetus came from friends of the head of state and was detrimental to other potential Justicialist candidates in the 1995 presidential election, one of whom is his brother, San Luis Governor Adolfo Rodriguez Saa.

Support for reform, albeit qualified, has come from unusual places as well. The Buenos Aires province bloc of Radical deputies said yesterday in a document signed by their leader, Miguel Angel Bazze, that they were in favour of weighing changes to the Constitution but stressed that their posture "does not imply conformity with the theme that the official party has skillfully cast as the subject of public debate." The Radical deputies warned, however, that "the modification (to allow for presidential reelection) that was suggested so lightly is too serious to be considered in this form."

In addition to commenting on constitutional matters, Menem yesterday continued to express support for his ousted private secretary and personal friend, Miguel Angel Vicco. He said he viewed Vicco's departure with "pain" and "regret" because his close supporter "has been condemned before he could defend himself, and he couldn't defend himself because there were no charges made against him."

## Brazil

### Military Says Nuclear Project 'Dead and Buried'

*PY0302222092 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 3 Feb 92 p 11*

[By Tania Monteiro]

[Text] Brasilia—Military authorities yesterday confirmed that a group linked to General Octavio de Aguiar Medeiros, former head of the SNI [National Service for Intelligence], tried to develop an atomic bomb during Joao Figueiredo's government. The same officials stressed, however, that the project "is dead and buried" today for two basic reasons: a political decision and a lack of resources.

Navy Minister Mario Flores told the ESTADO NEWS AGENCY [AE] that "this government did not and does not have any intention of manufacturing an atomic bomb." Flores added: "I could not say the same thing about a government previous to that of President Sarney's." According to the minister, all attempts to proceed with the research had already been dropped when President Jose Sarney took over.

An active-duty, four-star general said the Army's initial justification for construction of a uranium reactor controlled by graphite to produce electric energy was "unsustainable." According to the officer, countries such as the United States and Russia developed their nuclear programs in exactly the same way; that is, beginning with a graphite reactor. The main purpose of those programs was to produce a bomb. The general stated that it is difficult to defend the Army project because it is too old.

Other officers linked to the Armed Forces high command said the project to build the bomb does not stand a chance of being resumed because the Army "will not receive a cent to develop its reactor." The Army requested $30 million (close to 39 billion cruzeiros) for the program, but Strategic Affairs Secretary Pedro Paulo Leoni Ramos, who is responsible for nuclear programs, did not authorize a release of the funds.

"Leoni Ramos, who is the son of a military officer and has a special skill for handling these things, ended up withdrawing all funds for this project without too much fuss," one of the military authorities who talked with AE said. According to this officer, now, when resources are scarce, it is necessary to concentrate all efforts on more advanced projects, projects that obviously are not aimed at building an atomic bomb. This is why the other Armed Forces branches did not resist the withdrawal of funds that much.

According to the officers who talked to AE, the idea of building a bomb had already been dropped at the end of Figueiredo's government. The single facility that was finished—because it only needed civilian engineering work—was the test shaft in Serra do Cachimbo, Para State, which was constructed on Aeronautics Ministry land. At the beginning of his administration, President Fernando Collor, in a symbolic gesture, ordered the shaft filled in. At present, funds for the development of nuclear technology—in the military field—are concentrated in the Aramar project that is handled by the Navy. The project provides for construction of a submarine outfitted with an appropriate reactor. The military think the program is essential for the country. As for the Army request for funds to continue building the graphite-controlled reactor, an adviser to President Collor said: "It will not succeed."

The high-ranking officers who talked to AE said that statements by General Romero Lepesqueur, Army science and technology secretary, confirming that the reactor will only be used for technological training in nuclear arms, should not create diplomatic conflicts between Brazil and its neighboring countries. One of the officers interpreted Lepesqueur's words as an attempt to show "that any country, if it wants to be counted, must control nuclear technology."

The same officer stressed that Brazil does not plan to build an atomic bomb, but to control the nuclear fuel cycle, which is important for various civilian projects.

### Nuclear Research 'Objectives'

*PY0302131492 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 2 Feb 92 p 12*

[Text] Comments by General Romero Lepesqueur, Army science and technology secretary, explaining the military objectives of the construction of an experimental nuclear reactor in Guaratiba, formally closed what the strategists call a sort of "nuclear logic cycle." In other words: The Navy builds the nuclear submarines, aeronautics builds the missiles, and the Army builds the bomb.

This logic is based on the facts found in the recent history of all the armed forces in the world. As nuclear expert Colonel Geraldo Cavagnari, a retired officer who coordinates the Strategic Studies Nucleus [Nucleo de Estudos Estrategicos—NEE] of Campinas University (Unicamp), said: All nuclear research is aimed at the manufacture of weapons.

Cavagnari made these comments in September 1990, when the Army admitted for the first time that it had a project under way in Guaratiba. The Army then tried to justify the project as being aimed at developing a "campaign reactor," or, in other words, a single part of an electricity generator to be used during missions conducted in areas that did not have this type of energy. Cavagnari, however, categorically asserted that, in his opinion—from the military point of view—this type of research can only have two explanations: The Army was either seeking to grant its members some nuclear training that would later be transferred to the civilian sector, or it really was willing to build the atomic bomb.

At the time, Col. Cavagnari asked the Army to explain its objectives more explicitly "to prevent doubts about undeclared intentions." Gen. Lepesqueur's comments now seem to have clarified the doubts.

### Army Role 'Embarrassing'

*PY0302162492 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 2 Feb 92 p 3*

[Editorial: "The Reactor of Discord"]

[Text] We cannot understand why the Army now insists on implementing its project aimed at building a reactor that uses graphite and will produce plutonium—an important element in the manufacture of nuclear weapons. We cannot understand either why General Romero Lepesqueur, Army science and technology secretary, insists on criticizing Strategic Affairs Secretary Pedro Paulo Leoni Ramos for withholding the resources required for this reactor's construction. It is clear that everyone realizes the military is interested in obtaining know-how to build the atomic bomb and that the reactor has no other objective, although Gen. Lepesqueur has mentioned "a research laboratory." One more thing that we cannot understand is why the Army, and not the civilian research institutes and the scientific community, is engaged in this project.

What has the Army got to do with reactors and nuclear energy? Gen. Lepesqueur's answer is not convincing. On the contrary, it embarrasses and compromises the government. Civilian society fears that, by handing over this type of research to the military, it will use it to manufacture weapons. "We, however, have accumulated experience and a trustworthy image," Gen. Lepesqueur said. As if this were not enough, he added: "Moreover, if we do not know the enemy, we will not know how to fight it." He made these comments, among several other compromising ones, to O ESTADO. He also said: The graphite reactor "will not be potent enough for an atomic bomb, but we do not want to be taken by surprise." In his opinion, "For the time being, we are concerned with defensive weapons, but whoever is technologically prepared to resist the effects of a nuclear weapon is also capable of attacking."

All that is very embarrassing for the government, particularly for the president of the Republic, who promised internationally to avoid nuclear research that may lead to war. Brazil signed an agreement with Argentina forbidding this type of research and opened its borders to research conducted by International Atomic Energy Agency experts. Through interviews granted by Jose Goldemberg while he was science and technology secretary, the government admitted that the military had wanted to build the atomic bomb although, Goldemberg added, this hypothesis had been entirely shunned. The government has definitively closed this chapter.

President Collor has symbolically filled up the much-commented-upon hole dug in Cachimbo for nuclear experiments with clearly warlike objectives. After this government decision, the Army confirmed that it plans to build a reactor to produce plutonium and that it wishes to master a type of technology that will enable it to defend and attack. Defend itself from whom? Whom do they want to attack? Who is the enemy? Who is threatening us? Argentina, the only neighboring country that has some nuclear technology, has signed a solemn agreement with Brazil for mutual supervision, thus ending the nuclear dreams of the military that left power in Argentina. Therefore, where is the threat?

Moreover, disarmament is being implemented worldwide: The former USSR is deactivating nuclear warheads, and the United States and the international community are beginning technical negotiations to eliminate nuclear weapons. Meanwhile, openly confronting the decision of the president of the Republic, the Army wants to invest an initial $30 million to become capable of building the atomic bomb to defend itself against the enemy... Are they naive, dreamers, or confrontationists? We cannot forget either that the Navy is conducting other research on its own, thus comprising with the Army the Brazilian nuclear technology spearhead. Why the Army? Why the Navy? Why not the scientific research institutes? We believe the research must continue and that we should not stay behind, but we believe it must be conducted by civilian society.

This situation, therefore, compromises us in the eyes of the international community. We cannot forget—and no one does—that the current administration has admitted that the military had planned to build the atomic bomb. It is extremely embarrassing and compromising for the government that an Army general, who is occupying an important position, confirms the Army's plans to continue insisting on building a reactor with no other objective than to produce plutonium. In addition, this general publicly criticized the Strategic Affairs secretary, who simply complied with President Collor's orders.

We are witnessing a conflict of interest: on one side, the president of the Republic, on the other the military sector that should not participate in the nuclear research program. The military's insistence on mingling in the program merely compromises the president of the Republic and the country. It is the government's duty to prevent that, not by refusing to assign funds to the research, but by definitively and unquestionably ordering the military to abandon nuclear research because this is not its duty—as it is not its duty to create international dissension.

### Finances Affect Project

*PY0302232092 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 3 Feb 92 p 11*

[By Suely Caldas and Tania Malheiros]

[Text] Tecmat Industrial Technology and Materials Inc., which was created in the eighties to produce graphite for an Army nuclear reactor, has no funds to survive. This company was sued by the Bank of Brazil last October because of its 1.5 billion cruzeiros debt with the bank. The court must decide if the company will have to sell its equipment and machinery to repay the debt contracted

in 1988. In 1990, Tecmat called for a composition of creditors, but it is still waiting for a court decision on this issue.

The serious situation of the company was disclosed to AGENCIA ESTADO (AE) by General Romero Lepesqueur, Army science and technology secretary. He said that Tecmat interrupted graphite production, which is used as a moderating element in uranium nuclear reactions, when the federal government suspended the budget for the reactor.

General Romero Lepesqueur said: "It is a pity to see an idle project." He added: "Tecmat does not have the means to invest its own capital." Lepesqueur also confirmed to AE, in an interview published yesterday by O ESTADO, that the Army reactor is designed to carry out research for training in nuclear weapons. Tecmat owner Antonio Carlos Didier Barbosa Vianna, a former Navy commander, told the press in 1989 that the Army built the pilot plant and provided the basic technical information for construction of the company's installation over an area of 40,000 square meters in Nova Iguazu, Baixada Fluminense District. Lepesqueur also said that Microlab, another company owned by Barbosa Vianna, "is also suffering the consequences of changes in the Informatics Law." Lepesqueur said that after the graphite project is fulfilled, Tecmat will diversify its activities. This is why about 100 employees are maintaining the company's installation.

Joao Jose Forni, a Bank of Brazil adviser, said in Brasilia that the bank will not make any statement on this case until a judicial decision is made. Barbosa Vianna has also refused to talk about this case since December. "We are going through a delicate situation" said Barbosa, when AE reported that the Bank of Brazil was suing his company. He added: "We have nothing to say."

The graphite reactor project began in 1981 at the Army Technological Center (Cetex) in Guaratiba, west of Rio, when the military increased secret budgets for the so-called parallel nuclear program (military).

### Atomic Bomb 'Simple'

*PY0302141492 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 2 Feb 92 p 12*

[Excerpts] It is relatively simple to build an atomic bomb similar to that which destroyed Hiroshima in 1945. All one would need is a little under $2 million (approximately 2.6 billion cruzeiros), a half-dozen technicians, 18 kg of uranium enriched to the concentration of 94 percent of the fissionable isotope (U-235), 63.2 kg of natural uranium (U-238), and 882 kg of conventional military explosive. All these ingredients can be obtained in Brazil. This is the conclusion of a report that the Nuclear Issue Follow-up Commission of the Brazilian Physics Association (SBF) prepared last year.

Although Navy facilities in Ipero (Sao Paulo), are unable to enrich uranium to the extent necessary, certain equipment could be adapted easily for this task. Once that is done it would take only a few weeks to explode the first device in a shaft 320 meters deep, just like the one the Air Force dug in Serra do Cachimbo in Para State. The SBF found the theoretical design of the bomb in specialized literature. [passage omitted]

In the case of Brazil's hypothetical nuclear bomb, chain reaction could be brought about by means of a violent implosion of conventional military explosives placed around the radioactive material like pulp around the core in a fruit.

According to the SBF report, the explosive device's core would be a ball of uranium enriched to 94 percent of U-235. This ball would have a diameter of 12.2 cm and a kind of detonator in the middle, made up of spherical coats of polonium and beryllium. [passage omitted]

### Preliminary Finding 'Murder' in Venezuelan Crash

*PY0402013292 Rio de Janeiro Rede Globo Television in Portuguese 2155 GMT 3 Jan 92*

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] The Brazilian Foreign Ministry understands that Venezuela has the right to act against intruders. The problem is the downing of a prospector's plane and the death of two individuals. This incident prompted a quick investigation in Venezuela. Today, following an investigation, a Unicamp [Campinas State University] expert gave the federal police a partial report: The pilot's body had several broken bones and possible bullet wounds. The body of prospector Moises Ferreira had several bullet wounds.

For the Foreign Ministry, corroboration that there was murder is serious.

[Begin Foreign Ministry spokesman Luis Fernando Benadini recording] The Foreign Ministry expects that the Venezuelan Government will do what we always expected it to do: Once the investigation concludes, the government will take the appropriate actions to judge the responsibility of those involved. [passage omitted] [end recording]

### Firm 'May Have' Sold Missile Technology to Iraq

*PY0402004292 Rio de Janeiro Rede Globo Television in Portuguese 2155 GMT 3 Jan 92*

[Excerpt] A high-ranking government source has admitted that between 1987 and 1989, Brigadier Hugo Piva and the Orbita company may have sold technology for improving the performance of Scud missiles to Iraq. [passage omitted]

### French Satellite To Aid in Border Demarcation

*PY0102133492 Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 30 Jan 92 p 5*

[Text] Sao Jose dos Campos—The northern Brazilian border, which is completely covered by the Amazon rain forest, will be demarcated in the next few months with the French satellite Spot. The project will begin in February and will be carried out by experts from INPE [National Institute of Space Research] and the Army Ministry Geography and Geodesics Service, with the assistance of French experts.

INPE Director Marcio Barbosa reported yesterday that the first map showing the northern border demarcations will be ready by April. It will be the basis for demarcating the Brazilian border with Guyana, French Guiana, Suriname, Venezuela, Colombia, Peru and Bolivia.

### Economy Minister Reports Release of Loan Payment

*PY0402010692 Brasilia Voz do Brasil Network in Portuguese 2100 GMT 3 Feb 92*

[Text] Economy Minister Marcilio Marques Moreira reported that the IMF released the first installment of a $2.1 billion standby loan today. It is $220 million, which represents a reserve increase of $400 million. [sentence as heard]

The standby loan will be released in seven quarterly installments. During that period, IMF experts will follow the evolution of Brazil's economic program. A Brazilian commission will also be in charge of following, step by step, all economic adjustment measures detailed in the letter of intent approved by the IMF.

## Chile

### Honecker Reportedly To Arrive in Santiago

*PY0102122492 Santiago Radio Chilena Network in Spanish 1000 GMT 1 Feb 92*

[Text] The German newspaper (BERLINER KURIER), citing an official source, has reported that Erich Honecker reportedly will arrive in Chile in the next few hours. The newspaper stated that Honecker reportedly has been authorized to leave for Santiago.

Chile apparently changed its attitude, because in principle President Aylwin himself stated that there was no asylum request and that Honecker could not enter Chile without a passport.

According to analysts, following an internal political campaign in Germany, Helmut Kohl may have decided to authorize the passport to Honecker for humanitarian reasons. On 9 December, the former East German communist leader entered the Chilean Embassy in Moscow, where he has remained as a guest, a fact that prevented his extradition to Germany. He is charged with issuing orders to open fire upon anyone trying to escape [East Germany] via the Berlin wall.

### Arrival 'Just a Rumor'

*PY0102170892 Santiago Radio Chilena Network in Spanish 1600 GMT 1 Feb 92*

[Report by Claudia Samora at La Moneda Palace]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] Acting Foreign Minister Belisario Velasco reported today that the alleged arrival in Chile of former German leader Erich Honecker is just a rumor. He stated that Honecker is at the Chilean Embassy in Moscow, and that there is no talk of bringing him to Chile. He said that Honecker continues to be regarded as a guest of the Chilean Embassy. [passage omitted]

### Court Upholds Request for Herrera Extradition

*PY3101181492 Santiago Radio Chilena Network in Spanish 1600 GMT 31 Jan 92*

[Text] The Supreme Court has approved a request for the extradition of Carlos Herrera Jimenez, who is imprisoned in Argentina on charges of possession of a forged identification card. Herrera Jimenez has been prosecuted in Chile in a case about which no information can be released. A court-martial also has sentenced him to 10 years plus one day of imprisonment on charges of exercising unnecessary violence resulting in the death of truck driver Mario Fernandez in 1984 in La Serena.

### National Renewal, UDI Join Forces in Congress

*PY0302164092 Santiago Television Nacional de Chile Network in Spanish 2330 GMT 1 Feb 92*

[Text] Having overcome considerable difficulties, National Renewal [RN] and the UDI [Independent Democratic Union] finally achieved an agreement and established a joint commission designed to reconcile their political positions.

[Begin recording] [UDI Vice Chairman Andres Chadwick] The time is over when the Coalition of Parties for Democracy, CPPD, played one party against the other in seeking support for its bills. From now on, any agreement reached in Congress will have to be negotiated between the CPPD and the opposition, and whenever no agreement is possible the opposition will stand united against the CPPD.

[RN Vice Chairman Alberto Espina] This does not mean that there will be a destructive and obstructionist opposition. All it means is that the country now may rest assured that, when the executive branch sends a bill that the two opposition parties believes is harmful to the country, they will reject it. [end recording]

The two parties also will ask the government to speed up bills on the security of citizens that the opposition leaders believe have been blocked by the CPPD.

### Abducted EL MERCURIO Manager Released

*PY0302125292 Santiago Television Nacional de Chile Network in Spanish 2330 GMT 2 Feb 92*

[Excerpts] Christian Edwards del Rio gathered with his family on a farm in Graneros after he was released by his abductors last night.

Looking thinner, wearing a beard, and obviously affected by the 145 days in captivity, Christian Edwards was released at 2300 yesterday. [passage omitted]

The Chilean Government has stated that it has not negotiated with terrorist groups. However, it admitted that the family paid a ransom for the release of Christian Edwards del Rio. It also was disclosed that, according to information at hand, it could almost be asserted that the kidnappers belong to the Manuel Rodriguez Front Autonomous Faction.

This morning, Public Security Council members Jorge Burgos and Marcelo Schilling referred to the release of Christian Edwards del Rio, although they avoided disclosing details of the event, stating that it could jeopardize investigations in progress. However, they emphasized that the regional manager of the daily EL MERCURIO was rescued alive, which was the main objective of his family, the government, and the public order and security forces. [passage omitted]

## Colombia

### Government Submits State of Emergency Bill

*PA0102015992 Santa Fe de Bogota Emisoras Caracol Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 31 Jan 92*

[Text] Santa Fe de Bogota—The government has submitted to the congress a bill that includes a strict system to enforce public order and protect democratic institutions. The system could also include orders to carry out confiscations, searches, impose more taxes, and censure the media. The bill was revealed by Government Minister Humberto de la Calle Lombana, who is also replacing the president during his absence. De la Calle Lombana revealed that the initiative strives to establish a balance between power, defense, and control of citizens' lives.

In case of war, the president will be authorized to assume control and reject aggression, temporarily confiscate citizens' assets, and forbid the media to publish information that might obstruct war-related operations. The bill also proposes restricting citizens' mobility, modifying mandatory military service norms, and abolishing legislative decrees issued by the government during a state of war.

Referring to internal strife, which could be declared when public order is seriously disrupted, the government would be able to enforce a curfew in the appropriate territories, seize assets, and impose a military draft. Other restrictions are also included in the declaration of internal strife. According to the government, they would guarantee the people's tranquillity.

The government warned that it has not considered the possibility of declaring an insurrection because it believes that the subversive groups' attacks are not critical enough to decree those new measures. The statement was given by Government Minister De la Calle Lombana when presenting the state of emergency bill. The government has not declared insurrection, even though it could, because we are witnessing attacks that the state foresees being taken care of by adopting these measures, De la Calle Lombana said.

The minister said that the new concept about a state of emergency cannot be understood as the resurrection of state security, and each law includes regulations that deal with insurrection or war—and establishes democratic controls through the legislative branch.

### Gaviria Revises Strategy With Uribe Appointment

*PA0202170092 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 0130 GMT 2 Feb 92*

[Text] With the appointment of a new peace adviser, the government is playing its last card. In the light of the successful experience of the peace talks in El Salvador, President Gaviria decided to revise his strategy of negotiating with the guerrillas. He removed Jesus Bejarano and he appointed Horacio Serpa Uribe.

In this complex process, the government will surely seek to commit the political parties and the production groups in the search for peace.

[Begin political analyst Jaime Zuluaga recording] That must be done so that the process will not drown and become just another agreement between the guerrilla leadership and government representatives. [end recording]

On the other hand, the guerrillas have new representatives at the negotiations. The Army of National Liberation has appointed Nicolas Rodriguez Bautista, also known as Gabino; while the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia appointed Timoleon Jimenez, in addition to Alfonso Cano.

[Begin Consultative Commission Member Saulo Arboleda recording] Let us hope that the resumption of the conversations in 1992 will lead to specific decisions and we will attain peace through a political agreement. [end recording]

In addition, it was learned that the priest Manuel Perez will go to Caracas on the day the first peace pacts are signed.

Nonetheless, if the talks fail, the country will have two alternatives left: First, to seek the presence of representatives of the international community; or second, a worsening of the war.

### Commission Members Resign

*PA0202164592 Santa Fe de Bogota EL NUEVO SIGLO in Spanish 30 Jan 92 p 7A*

[Text] Everything seems ready for the government to make a fresh approach to the methods, subjects of discussion, and particularly the objectives of the talks being held with the Simon Bolivar Guerrilla Coordinating Board [CGSB] delegates in Caracas. The government will be able to move the talks to the negotiations stage.

That is because of the designation of a new adviser for peace, Horacio Serpa Uribe; the creation of the Advisorship for Social Policy, headed by Gilberto Echeverri, responsible for plans to incorporate the guerrillas into civilian life; the resignation of all the members of the Public Order Advisory Commission "to leave President Gaviria free to reorganize the commission as he sees fit;" and the postponement of the start of the Caracas talks until 10 February.

The resignations of the four Advisory Commission members—Juan Gabriel Uribe of the National Salvation Movement [MSN]; Saulo Arboleda of the Liberal Party; Otty Patino of the 19 April Movement Democratic Alliance; and Gilberto Vieira of the leftists—who represented the country's leading political forces, leave the president free to decide whether he will keep the same political delegates on the commission and even if he will keep the commission itself.

Although it was reported that the talks had been postponed until 10 February because the CGSB delegates had trouble making travel arrangements to Caracas a few days prior to the date agreed upon originally, the views on some of the objectives to be sought in the Caracas meetings have changed substantially.

The letter that MSN Director Alvaro Gomez delivered to President Gaviria, and which was also signed by commission member Uribe, underlined the need for the talks to yield results and respond to negotiations and political stands and not just be a discussion of procedures, dates, or places.

Speaking on the radio, Gomez said on 29 January: "We are immersed in procedural matters related to the negotiations, such as whether they should start on this or that date, whether they will or will not be postponed, whether the delegates hold decisionmaking power, or whether the talks will be held in Caracas." That leads nowhere.

According to Gomez, "there is cowardice in the government, which is afraid of asking the guerrillas what they want and the guerrillas are afraid of expressing what they expect regarding five or six points."

### Uribe on Violence

*PA0202165692 Santa Fe de Bogota Emisoras Caracol Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 1 Feb 92*

[Text] The government has reiterated its sincere intention to achieve agreements at the Caracas talks that will finally lead to peace. It did not, however, conceal its concern over the state of upheaval and violence in various parts of the country.

Presidential Peace Adviser Horacio Serpa Uribe said in Popayan that the government is still seeking reconciliation among Colombians, and he urged subversive groups to stop hindering the citizenry's peace. Serpa Uribe attended a meeting of the Reintegration Council in the capital of Cauca Department, during which 60 projects that will benefit guerrillas who have rejoined the country's formal life, were approved. The government will invest 400 million pesos in those projects.

Meanwhile, the government views the wave of violence sweeping the country as a terrible beginning for the peace talks that are to be held in Caracas on 10 February. That is how the situation was described by Serpa Uribe, who as presidential peace adviser will head the Caracas talks.

We are seeking national reconciliation and it is our hope that the talks will not be permanently interrupted, said Serpa Uribe, who also called for an appropriate atmosphere for the talks.

On 10 February in Caracas, government and Simon Bolivar National Guerrilla Coordinating Board representatives will meet to seek alternatives that will finally lead to peace.

In Popayan, where he attended the meeting of the Reintegration Council, which has financed projects to reintegrate subversive groups into the country's institutional life, Government and Justice Minister Humberto de la Calle Lombana said that violence in Colombia is harming humble and innocent people. He said the attacks are not against the state or the Public Force, but against humble and innocent people who are paying for the violence with their lives and personal integrity.

I insist that the guerrillas, who are among the generators of violence, understand that the solution is reconciliation among Colombians, said de la Calle Lombana.

### Rebels Want Gaviria's Presence

*PA0202170692 Santa Fe de Bogota Emisoras Caracol Network in Spanish 1217 GMT 2 Feb 92*

[Text] The guerrillas have demanded that the government raise the rank of the government delegates at the Caracas peace talks and said that, if it is not done, guerrilla delegate Nicolas Rodriguez Bautista, alias Gabino, will not attend the talks.

The National Liberation Army said that Bautista, its military leader, will not be in Caracas on 10 February. The guerrillas reiterated their willingness to send their

highest-ranking leaders to Caracas if the government agrees to hold a direct dialogue in which President Cesar Gaviria and his government minister participate. Such a meeting would be attended by Manuel Marulanda Velez and Alfonso Cano of the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia, according to a guerrilla source.

After it was reported that the guerrillas are willing to send their highest-ranking leaders to the talks, Hector Riveros, deputy government minister, said the government regards the guerrillas' demand for Gaviria and his minister to attend the Caracas talks as unreasonable. Riveros said it is an outrage because the government has clearly named the government delegates to the Caracas talks.

The government delegates are headed by Horacio Serpa Uribe, former minister, former Attorney General, and current presidential adviser for peace. President Gaviria has already said that his delegates hold absolute decisionmaking power, Riveros said.

### Barrancabermeja Terrorism

*PA0102020092 Santa Fe de Bogota Emisoras Caracol Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 31 Jan 92*

[Text] Bucaramanga—Several terrorist actions have put the oil port of Barrancabermeja in a state of alarm. A demonstration was held to protest the recent violence.

The Barrancabermeja oil pipeline was blown up, Barrancabermeja's northeastern areas police post was attacked, and several devices were exploded in the Casave and El Centro production camps in three simultaneous actions. Several bombs were also detonated on the Barrancabermeja-Bucaramanga and Barrancabermeja-San Vicente roads.

Nueva Granada Battalion troops and forces of the Simon Guerrilla Coordinating Board clashed near the Yariguies airport, resulting in the death of three guerrilla fighters and the confiscation of a great deal of war materiel.

### Demobilized Group Blames Faction For Deaths

*PA0402021592 Santa Fe de Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 30 Jan 92 p 10C*

[Text] Medellin—The Hope, Peace, and Liberty political group, mostly comprised of members of the demobilized Popular Liberation Army (EPL) who accepted the government's peace plan, has asked the Francisco Caraballo Group, an EPL dissident faction, to explain to the country why it is killing its leaders in Uraba.

The demand was issued by Mario Agudelo Vasquez, president of the Friends of Uraba Foundation, which provides guidance to Hope, Peace, and Liberty.

According to Agudelo, it has been confirmed that the crimes of Felix Vega Paez and other members of Hope, Peace, and Liberty were recently perpetrated in Uraba by the dissident group's members.

Vega Paez was one of the four members of the National Union of the Agrarian Industry Workers (Sitrainagro) assassinated on 27 January. The other three workers—buried on 29 January in Apartado—were Antonio Espitia Zafra, Jaime Parodi Restrepo, and Alvaro Berrio Sotelo.

Agudelo said that, although the Francisco Caraballo Group and the Bolivarian Militias of the Revoutionary Armed Forces of Colombia have managed to seize some of the military positions left by the EPL in the zone, they have no influence on the political groups and civilians that support Hope, Peace, and Liberty.

Referring to the rumor circulating in Uraba, attributing the leaders' deaths to a war that has broken out between certain political and labor groups in the region, spokesmen of Sitrainagro's Carepa branch said the labor union includes groups from several political parties, but they all work together for the union's benefit and for the welfare of all the workers' families.

The spokesmen could not explain the puzzling events and said it is clear that groups using various methods to prevent the workers from becoming involved in municipal activities still operate in Uraba.

Agudelo said the increase of violence in Uraba can be solved by reaching a pact involving all the organizations and communities in the region and a major commitment by the national government.

Sitrainagro spokesmen said that, although farming activities were paralyzed on 29 January so the workers could attend their leaders' funerals, everything now should be back to normal.

### Duran Abducted To Force Military Withdrawal

*PA0202134692 Santa Fe de Bogota Emisoras Caracol Network in Spanish 0147 GMT 2 Feb 92*

[Text] Former minister Argelino Duran Quintero, who was kidnapped eight days ago by members of the self-styled Army of National Liberation, ELN, is in perfect condition. ELN spokespersons who contacted this station, however, said that he will not be released as long as the Armed Forces do not withdraw from a region of Ocana jurisdiction in Santander Department where the ELN claims the Armed Forces are committing abuses.

A radio telephone call, which was monitored in the past few hours, between the ELN captors and the central command of the outlawed ELN, confirmed the former minister's state of health.

This station learned that former minister Duran Quintero was kidnapped as part of a plan designed by the Libardo Moratoro Front of the Popular Liberation Army, Armando Cauca of the ELN, and 33d Front of the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia to kidnap people to force the Armed Forces' withdrawal.

### Abductors Make Demands

*PA0302190392 Santa Fe de Bogota EL NUEVO SIGLO in Spanish 31 Jan 92 p 7-A*

[Text] The Simon Bolivar National Guerrilla Coordinating Board [CNGSB] demanded on 30 January that a portion of the country's territory be demilitarized as a condition to save the life of kidnapped former Minister Argelino Duran Quintero.

The message was delivered to the governor by a merchant named Juan Carlos Arevalo, who had been kidnapped by the rebels on 23 January and freed on 30 January so he could deliver the rebels' demands.

Arevalo, who was also abducted by the rebels while in Ocana, Norte de Santander Department, said during his statements that the CNGSB has demanded that the Armed Forces pull out of the area as a condition to release Argelino Duran Quintero, 71. The guerrillas who are holding Duran Quintero hostage operate in the area of Catatumbo.

In the Catholic temple of Torcoroma in Bogota and in the parish churches of Norte de Santander, simultaneous masses were held on 30 January to pray for the early and safe return of the former minister to his home.

Meanwhile, the strong rejection expressed by several political and social sectors was joined by that of former Colombian presidents and former ministers of Public Works and Transport, who also condemned the abduction and appealed to the better judgment of his captors to free Argelino Duran Quintero.

A communique issued by former Presidents Carlos LLeras Restrepo, Misael Pastrana Borrero, Alfonso Michelsen, Julio Cesar Turbay Ayala, and Belisario Betancur, said: "In our role as democratically elected former presidents, confident in the fulfillment of the peace process in an atmosphere of civil credibility, and convinced that what constitutes the basic foundation of peace is respect for people's rights, for our authorities, and for each and every Colombian, we hereby call upon those who hold Argelino Duran Quintero prisoner to return him immediately to his home and to a community that surrounds him with gratitude and affection."

The former ministers of Public Works and Transportation and the Colombian Association of Engineers strongly denounced the abduction also.

The communique issued by the former ministers of Public Works and Transportation says: "We join in denouncing this abduction, no matter what the alleged objective may be, because it is a form of extortion seeking to strip human nature of its most precious of rights: freedom. We appeal to the better judgment of the captors of Dr. Duran Quintero to return his relatives, friends, and the nation in general once again to tranquility."

### Council To Discuss Demobilization Plan in Popayan

*PA3101200292 Santa Fe de Bogota Emisoras Caracol Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 31 Jan 92*

[Text] On 31 January, acting President Humberto de la Calle Lombana and Gilberto Echeverri Mejia, presidential adviser for social policy, will preside in Popayan over this year's first national council in charge of the demobilization program.

The council will approve 59 production projects and loans of over 385 million pesos. The projects will benefit more than 1,600 demobilized Colombians.

With the new measure the presidential program will cover 81 percent of the M-19 [19 April Movement] population, 41 percent of the EPL [Popular Liberation Army] population, 62 percent of the PRT [Revolutionary Workers Party] population, and 45 percent of the pro-Indian group Quintin Lame population.

During the meeting, the council will approve agro-industrial projects to benefit a large portion of the population that has been reincorporated into society in the Cauca Department and other regions of the country.

Minister de la Calle Lombana will travel to Popayan with Ricardo Santamaria, presidential adviser for national security; Jorge Orlando Melo, presidential adviser for human rights; Cesar Garcia, director of the national rehabilitation plan; and Incora [Colombian Institute of Agrarian Reform] director Fernando Corales Cruz.

### M-19 Democratic Alliance Presents Talks Proposal

*PA0302164592 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 1800 GMT 2 Feb 92*

[Text] The 19 April Movement Democratic Alliance [AD/M-19] has decided to intervene in the preparation for the Caracas peace talks by launching a proposal package. It is a list of recommendations to guide the guerrillas' discussion.

Antonio Navarro, an AD/M-19 leader, said that the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia and the Army of National Liberation rebels are making too many mistakes at the talks, as they did during the peace process three years ago.

[Begin Navarro recording] believe that if the talks in Caracas continue as they have up to now—where only the government and the Simon Bolivar National Guerrilla Coordinating Board are sitting at the table—they will never make it to Pereira. [end recording]

The AD/M-19 will present a 10-point document on 6 February. Among other things, the recommendations include a request for international participation by organizations, such as the United Nations, and a national commission to include members of the Catholic church and the transnational oil companies.

[Begin Navarro recording] The way in which the ceasefire is being designed may lead to new levels in the war. [end recording]

For the AD/M-19, the secret to peace is in the process of reintegrating the guerrillas into civilian life. The agreements must be clear and complied with very precisely.

### 'Text' of Joint Customs Agreement With Venezuela

*PA0302044392 Santa Fe de Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 30 Jan 92 pp 1A, 8A*

["Text" of agreement signed by President Cesar Gaviria and Venezuelan President Carlos Andres Perez on 29 January at Simon Bolivar Airport in Caracas]

[Text] The presidents of Colombia and Venezuela, Cesar Gaviria and Carlos Andres Perez, have pledged to strive to strengthen their respective economies' competitiveness. In an effort to consolidate the Free Trade Zone agreed upon by the presidents of the Cartagena Agreement member countries in the Act of Barahona, signed on 5 December 1991, the presidents wish to report on the important agreements reached to achieve progress in the creation of a joint economic zone between the two countries.

We have defined a joint customs system for its immediate implementation, based on the proposal presented by the Agreement Board to countries outside the Andean Group. We feel the system represents a significant step toward the creation of a joint sub-regional customs sector. The system creates the instruments that will serve as guidelines for the Act of Barahona and establishes a simple structure based on production levels, with a 20 percent ceiling. The system establishes the groundwork for better integration of our production activities into the world's economy. Referring to that, the customs system does not respond to fiscal interests or protectionist measures; it only strives to become the essential axis of a modern industrial policy that seeks to become part of international competition.

Seeking to minimize its effects on medicine and food prices, we have decided to reduce to zero the import tariffs on certain basic materials used for the preparation of those products, including basic active drugs for medicine and the main raw materials used in pesticides and simple fertilizers.

Seeking to endorse the agricultural, industrial, and commercial reconversion processes, we have reduced to a minimum the import tariffs for production machinery and equipment, as well as other products used in those sectors. We have agreed to suspend the corresponding tariff when there is no sub-regional production or when there is not enough production.

In addition, we have agreed upon a single tariff policy system to stabilize import prices of certain critical products that will replace the quotas and other restrictive mechanisms for the sake of sparing our farmers the uncertainty caused by the marked changes in prices that characterize the world markets for those products.

Also, we have agreed to eliminate the few exceptions that still prevail concerning the principle of free circulation of assets that will be implemented when the Joint External Tariff becomes effective. Likewise, we have embarked on the task of defining joint views that harmonize the technical, medicinal, botanical, and ecological controls to prevent them from becoming obstacles that preclude trade.

We decided to liberate trade in the two sectors that are still ruled by voluntary restriction agreements. That will become effective immediately for vehicles and vehicle spare parts; and effective April 1993 for steel products. In addition, norms for products from the automobile industry will be rendered more flexible to facilitate their trade.

Referring to normalization efforts, Colombia and Venezuela have strived hard toward integration. Those efforts will soon lead to the enforcement of equivalent norms between our two countries, thus allowing for the free flow of merchandise.

Referring to industrial property, the two countries' respective offices have had important and fruitful exchanges, discussing the possibility of reaching an agreement on the mutual exchange of information on patents and brands. Likewise, Venezuela will give aid to Colombia this year for the development and implementation of its computer systems.

Finally, seeking to establish the groundwork to create joint rules for the development of economic activities, we have created a high-level commission comprised of the finance, development, and planning ministers, and the presidents of the two countries' central banks, so they may work to harmonize macro-economic policies.

Colombia and Venezuela have taken an extremely important step with this agreement to create an economic sector between the two countries; to sponsor mutual exchange based on complementary and competitive development of their industry, agriculture, and trade; and to increase the presence of Colombian and Venezuelan products in international markets. We have no doubts when we state that the progress achieved will create increasingly attractive conditions for productive investments, create new jobs, and improve our economies. That will be unequivocal proof of our willingness to modernize our countries. We also want to reassert out political pledge to achieve Andean unity through the adoption of a Joint External Tariff among the five countries. Consequently, we have instructed our representatives to try to bring about an agreement at the next meeting in Quito, an agreement that will enable us to make Andean customs unity a reality.

Carlos Andres Perez, President of the Republic of Venezuela

Cesar Gaviria Trujillo, President of the Republic of Colombia

## Uruguay

### Lacalle Campaign for Majority in Congress Viewed

*PY0302175692 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1617 GMT 2 Feb 92*

[By Jorge Figueroa]

[Excerpts] Montevideo, 2 Feb (EFE)—Uruguayan President Luis Alberto Lacalle today began a week of difficult negotiations with leaders of his party and other political groups in an effort to obtain a majority in Congress. Meanwhile, speculative reports on the possibility of calling for elections on an earlier date have begun to circulate.

Lacalle, a leader of the centrist-rightist National or "Blanco" Party who was elected president in November 1989, put an end to the first coalition government experience—which was called "the national coincidence"—by requesting the resignation of his cabinet on 30 January and by temporarily confirming all cabinet members. [passage omitted]

Lacalle is personally handling negotiations. He met with Vice President Gonzalo Aguirre for four hours yesterday at the Punta del Este resort, 150 km from Montevideo, "where the president is studying the situation of the country and is designing its future," official spokesmen said.

Politicians, among them pro-government leaders like Aguirre, businessmen, industrialists, farmers, and workers have harshly criticized the government's economic policy, particularly the latest fiscal adjustments.

On 30 January, however, the government issued a communique, through the Ministry of Economy and Finance, confirming its economic policy and its objectives, among them the reduction of inflation, reached 81.45 percent last year. [passage omitted]

Senator Reinaldo Gargano, secretary general of the Socialist Party, which belongs to the Broad Front (FA) coalition—Uruguay's third-largest political group—emphasized that "if no changes are made in economic policy, it will be difficult for the government to obtain congressional support." Gargano confirmed that the FA will support the scheduled questioning in Congress of Economy Minister Enrique Braga and Labor Minister Alvaro Carbone, who will answer questions on the salary and fiscal policy and on social security system.

The questioning of the ministers—if it results in censure by the lawmakers—might be "the starting point" in calling for elections on an earlier date, in case the president confirms his ministers and dissolves Congress. The president is empowered to dissolve Congress and call for elections, as has been established in the Constitution since 1934. This power, however, has never been used in Uruguay.

[Madrid EFE in Spanish at 1650 GMT on 3 February reports: "Uruguayan Vice President Gonzalo Aguirre today said that the Uruguayan Government is not considering the possibility of dissolving Congress and calling for elections on an earlier date, thus dismissing reports that had circulated in this regard."]

## Venezuela

### Perez Addresses Nation After Coup Attempt

*PA0402091792 Caracas Radio and Television Network in Spanish 0822 GMT 4 Feb 92*

[Speech by President Carlos Andres Perez; place and date not given—live or recorded]

[Text] Venezuelans: One hour ago, I addressed the nation to inform you of the vandalistic outrage committed by a group of military men who, disregarding their constitutional duties and dishonoring their intelligence, tried to stage a coup to assassinate me. They tried to seize La Casona [presidential palace] and Miraflores Palace [seat of government].

Fortunately, the functional loyalty of the Armed Forces prevented it. I have the support of the entire nation. The Venezuelan Federation of Associations and Chambers of Commerce and Industry, the CTV [Confederation of Venezuelan Workers], and all the political parties have expressed their full support for Venezuela's democratic government and its constitutional president.

I have had the honor and shame, at the same time, of directly receiving messages from Latin American presidents. President Gaviria was the spokesman for presidents Carlos Salinas de Gortari, President Fujimori, President Menem, and other Latin American presidents to tell me that they issued a strong and energetic communique to the media stating that they will never accept the trampling of Bolivar's fatherland by a new dictatorship.

President Mitterrand has called from France. Spanish Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez has also called. A few moments ago, I received a call from President George Bush who stepped from his bedroom at 0200 to tell Venezuelans to count on the solidarity of the American people. I appreciate these messages of solidarity. I also appreciate the one received from the European Economic Community, which issued a similar statement.

The world is astonished. It is witnessing how some people are trying to establish a dictatorship in a new Latin American fatherland. This is occurring at a time when we thought there would never be another military coup d'etat in our country.

I must clearly and specifically stress that the Venezuelan Armed Forces are standing beside their president and

their commander in chief. Those who have tried to carry out this shameful and criminal act of destroying democracy are self-seeking groups.

I ask all my compatriots to be calm but firm. Let them know that the president has strength and confidence, that he is supported by all sectors of our community. There are no parties here. There are no opposition groups. What we have here is a single voice and a single will, that of Venezuela—which I embody and represent with pride and dignity.

In a few moments, I will return to Miraflores Palace, because the groups that tried to seize me at Miraflores have already surrendered and the loyal forces, that is the Venezuelan Armed Forces, with all their dignity, are keeping the palace under control. From there, I will continue to fulfill the mandate the Venezuelan people gave me.

Venezuelans, trust democracy. Let us trust ourselves. Let us trust in the great project of our fatherland, to be a nation where we all can live in tranquillity and where the vote of Venezuelans will determine the fate of our country.

The president of Democratic Action and the secretary general of COPEI [Social Christian Party], and the CTV president have addressed the country over this radio station and over all the country's television networks. In addition, representatives from all labor and business organizations have called me to offer their support.

Now, I want to address, especially, the country's Armed Forces. Officers and soldiers: This is your commander in chief. You owe your obedience to me, to the one who has the people's mandate and who swore to enforce the Constitution. You must ignore any officer, regardless of his rank, who tries to make you disregard your duty. You must honor your oath. You must honor the Venezuelan people, who are your roots.

I am sending you a specific and categorical order: You must obey your commander in chief; you must obey the natural chain of command of the military organization that remains firm in obeying and abiding by the Constitution of the Republic.

### Updates Nation

*PA0402105592 Caracas Radio and Television Network in Spanish 0902 GMT 4 Feb 92*

[Rebroadcast of speech by President Carlos Andres Perez on 4 February; place not given—recorded]

[Text] Venezuelans: I address the entire nation at this time in the early morning because an unusual occurrence, which fills us with shame and sadness, happened a short while ago. The Jose Leonardo Chirinos Paratroopers Regiment in Aragua, disobeying its oath and constitutional mandates, rebelled against the Constitution and the legitimately established government.

Its members tried to occupy Miraflores Palace and La Casona presidential residence by surprise. The subversive and antipatriotic movement is being controlled. The Armed Forces leadership is adopting measures required by this case.

I address all Venezuelans so that we can repudiate this action together and to say once and for all that the people are the bosses and the ones who determine the nation's fate, and that their president has the support of the Armed Forces and of all Venezuelans.

We hope the subversive movement will be completely subdued within the next few hours and that we will be able to continue to lead the fatherland in peace and with full determination and confidence.

I am making this announcement to all Venezuelans with firmness, but with indignation. I urge all Armed Forces officers to head for their barracks and to be on alert to ensure that those who want to see our fatherland plunged into disaster and international discredit will not have the slightest opportunity to take advantage of this situation to hurt national dignity.

Good morning, I will address you again as warranted. During the morning, I will address all Venezuelans again to tell them that the guerrilla movement has been fully controlled. Good morning and until next time: Have faith in democracy. I call on all segments of the population, on the country's active forces, and political parties, that is, the entire country, to become, along with the Armed Forces, a single force to fight this coup attempt, which betrays Venezuela's best and most legitimate interests.

### Situation 'Normal'

*PA0402115192 Caracas Radio and Television Network in Spanish 1037 GMT 4 Feb 92*

[Speech by President Carlos Andres Perez from Miraflores Palace in Caracas—live]

[Text] Venezuelans: As I reported on my previous television appearance, I am now in my office at Miraflores Palace. The situation is quickly returning to normal. In Caracas, the group that tried to disturb order, the soldiers who violated the oath they took and violated the Republic's Constitution are already under arrest.

We still have major problems in the State of Valencia. A captain—disobeying the authority of his superiors and dishonorably violating the oath he took—assumed the leadership of the armored battalion. From my office at Miraflores Palace, in my capacity as his commander in chief, I order him to surrender immediately and to place himself at the disposal of the military authorities in that state.

I wish to say to the Venezuelan people that all commando units, all Venezuelan barracks, remained loyal to the Venezuelan people, the Constitution, and to the oath their members took. A group of officers, who rebelled

against the Constitution and dishonored the Armed Forces' uniform, dared to try to carry out this coup attempt and sought to assassinate the president of the Republic.

Venezuelans must know about the crime that was plotted and the serious consequences for Venezuela that an event of this nature would have brought about. As commander in chief of the Armed Forces, I again repeat my categorical order to all officers, who may be displaying a subversive and rebellious attitude toward the legitimately established power, to lay down their arms. The government will act within the framework of the law but with complete strictness, because we are not defending the position of a government but the fate of all Venezuelan people.

Business, cultural, and political leaders have appeared on television since the early hours of 4 February to repudiate this coup attempt and to voice their support for the legitimately established power.

I said I had the honor, but also the shame of having directly received telephone calls from the presidents of America and Europe, who voiced their indignation over what was happening in Venezuela and who offered me their full support.

The presidents of Latin America, of Central America, of Europe... [pauses] the President of the United States of America at 0200 woke up and left his bed to telephone me and convey the solidarity of the United States, as did the presidents of Latin America.

A feeling of indignation has overtaken the world because they know what Venezuela stands for and what democracy stands for in Latin America, and are determined to assume international responsibility to avert an incident of this nature.

I am accompanied by the defense minister who, from the very start, faced this situation from his command at Fort Antiuna. The commanders also fulfilled their duties with responsibility and courage. We must only regret that the Air Force commander was captured at the Miranda Base by a group of those who rebelled against Venezuela. However, this situation is being settled now.

In Caracas, everything is normal. The situation is also back to normal in the States of Aragua and Zulia. We must only deal with the rebel point in the State of Carabobo. As I said, I order those involved to surrender immediately or face the consequences.

The people of Venezuela want to be democratic. Venezuelan democracy will not be trampled by any ambitious individual or criminal. The nation's Armed Forces are honored by their dignity and full determination to respect the people's will.

## Armed Forces Vow Loyalty to Perez, Government

*PA0402094592 Caracas Radio and Television Network in Spanish 0930 GMT 4 Feb 92*

[Statement read by Rear Admiral Rafael Huizi Clavier, spokesman of the Venezuelan Defense Ministry, place and date not given—live or recorded]

[Text] From the Defense Ministry, to Venezuelans:

The national Armed Forces side with the democratic system and the constitutional order. The military insurrection has been controlled. We guarantee the safety of the few rebels left and order them to turn themselves in to their superiors immediately. The Venezuelan people can be sure of the foundation of all the members of the country's Armed Forces, who have been trained under the democratic system that we obey.

The national government and the president of the Republic, the commander in chief, can be certain of the loyalty of their Armed Forces.

## Movement for Socialism Leader Opposes Coup

*PA0402104592 Caracas Radio Rumbos Network in Spanish 0820 GMT 4 Feb 92*

[Statement by telephone by Movement for Socialism leader Pompeio Marquez; place not given—live]

[Text] We have stated our position on many occasions that, in the serious crisis Venezuela is experiencing, there is no need for military intervention in the form of a coup d'etat. It has been demonstrated that coups d'etat do not solve political crises. They only complicate such crises. Coups (?inhibit) freedom and the possibility to protest, speak out, demonstrate, or improve the situation in any way.

There is a factor that must be taken into account when the conflict is resolved. It is that, to strengthen democracy, it is necessary to show that democracy can solve social problems, the key problems in the country. In this regard, as soon as this situation is brought under control, the president of the Republic must invite all the political forces together and truly listen to them, to begin to readjust the entire political policy and even make some changes in many policies, in view of the popular discontent that has become manifest throughout the country.

The democratic system [words indistinct]. A military coup leaves no room for solutions. That is the conclusion we have to take to (?the entire country). There is no solution by the path of intervention. The military have to be participants, collaborators, in the strengthening of a democratic system in which social problems and social justice have never been harmed as much as they are being harmed now. We have already learned this by experience in Latin America, not to mention here in Venezuela.

Today, the path to take is to meet the evils of democracy with more democracy. Today, more democracy means to attend to the popular sectors, the members of the great national majority, who are the victims of the mistaken policy that has been implemented.

### Government Troops Seize State TV Station

*PA0402102392 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0909 GMT 4 Feb 92*

[Text] Caracas, 4 Feb (EFE)—The Venezuelan state-owned television station, Venezolana de Television (VTV), has been unable to begin transmissions 4 February because it has been taken over by Armed Forces members, a television station worker told EFE.

Troops seized the building after the coup attempt staged at 0000 local (0400 GMT) by members of the "Jose Leonardo Chirinos" paratroopers' regiment. VTV cameras have not been able to go on the streets to cover the incidents of this attempt to disrupt democratic order, an action that has been vigorously opposed by all political and business sectors.

Reports of this incident have been learned from commercial radio and television stations because not even the state-owned news agency, Venpres, has sent any information on the coup attempt, which was brought under control by the government, as President Carlos Andres Perez said.

### Surrender of Rebels in Caracas Reported

*LD0402104192 Madrid RNE-1 Radio Network in Spanish 1000 GMT 4 Feb 92*

[Excerpts] President of Venezuela Carlos Andres Perez has said that the coup has failed and that the rebel troops are under the absolute control of the government. Military sources have just reported that the rebels have surrendered in the capital, Caracas. [passage omitted]

However, the situation remains confused. Latest reports also speak of pockets of resistance in the states of Aragua, to the east of the country, and of Zulia, to the northwest, where it appears that the governor is in the hands of the rebels. [passage omitted]

### Coup Blamed on 'Terrible' Cost of IMF Measures

*LD0402113392 Madrid RNE-1 Radio Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 4 Feb 92*

[Text] At times, democracy clashes with the social cost produced by the application of certain economic measures. This is what former Venezuelan president Rafael Caldera has told RNE. Caldera said that the situation is under control in Caracas and is confused in the interior. The coup, he added, has been condemned by all political forces. He stated that, in his opinion, the coup is a reflection of the difficult economic situation being experienced not only in Venezuela, but in the countries of the region. Here is an extract of what Caldera said:

[Begin Caldera recording] This alarm is a sort of warning given to all the Latin American countries because of the difficult situation we are experiencing. All these things have an economic background, and I am not sure that the industrialized nations are sufficiently aware of this. The democratic governments are coming up against the terrible social cost of the economic measures imposed by the IMF. [end recording]

### MAS Declares 'Solidarity' With Government

*PA0402112092 Caracas Televen Canal 10 in Spanish 0836 GMT 4 Feb 92*

[Statement by Freddy Munoz, secretary general of the Movement for Socialism—live]

[Text] At this time, at 0435 [0835 GMT] on 4 February, I address all Venezuelans in the name of the national directorate of the Movement for Socialism [MAS]. MAS repudiates, in an absolutely emphatic way, with the greatest firmness, with the greatest democratic awareness, the attempt made by a group of coup perpetrators. MAS hereby declares its unconditional solidarity with the Venezuelan Government and with the president of the Republic who, as we know, is also commander in chief of the Armed Forces.

It declares unconditional solidarity because what we need in Venezuela at this time is absolute unity of resolve among all the democratic forces that make up an absolute majority in the country, a unity to defend the democracy that has cost us so much, that we so sorely need, that is associated and will always be associated with everything good in the course of the country's life.

We have heard the statement made by the president of the Republic. He stated the whole truth, the absolute truth, when he said he has the support of all political parties, of all social, labor, business, and cultural organizations, of all the country's civilized sectors. That is the truth.

It is also true that this is not the time to proclaim differences. Of course they exist, but over and above them is a basic, fundamental, common interest. In honor of that interest, we are making this statement. In honor of that vital interest, we decided to act alongside the government, alongside all the other political and social organizations in the country.

I urge MAS members to contact their leadership organizations immediately. I urge the leaders to place themselves at the disposal of the authorities in all the states in the country, to contribute to the defense of this democracy, to contribute to what I am sure will be an imminent and certain victory for democracy, of the government, of the people, of the country, and of the nation's hope.

### Deputy Interior Minister Reports 'Few Deaths'

*PA0402100992 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0856 GMT 4 Feb 92*

[Excerpt] Caracas, 4 Feb (EFE)—According to Deputy Interior Affairs Minister Angel Zambrano, the coup attempt carried out by paratroopers was supported only by "sectors of the Air Force." Zambrano added that there had been a "few deaths."

Zambrano told EFE that between 150 and 200 snipers continued to be active around La Casona, the presidential residence in downtown Caracas.

Venezuelan President Carlos Andres Perez, Zambrano added, is at the Miraflores Palace, the seat of the Presidency, where calm has been restored following the shooting during the early morning hours. [passage omitted]

### Governor of Bolivar State Says Situation Normal

*PA0402122792 Caracas Televen Canal 10 in Spanish 0943 GMT 4 Feb 92*

[Telephone interview with Andres Velasquez, governor of the State of Bolivar, by unidentified reporter; place not given—live]

[Text] [Reporter] What is the situation in the State of Bolivar?

[Velasquez] It is completely normal. From the very moment we received the news, we went to the governor's office and contacted the various security forces that are branches of our Armed Forces, including the Directorate for Intelligence and Prevention Services, Judicial Technical Police, and the commanders of the various forces headquartered in the State of Bolivar.

The situation is completely normal. There is no insurgency here. The members of the Armed Forces in our state have displayed total loyalty to the democratic regime and the governor's office. They are awaiting any orders that we might issue at a given time, as the situation may warrant.

We can do nothing else but condemn the coup attempt that took place early this morning. Here in the State of Bolivar, on behalf of the government of this state, the governors of Guayana, and the countries' workers, I wish to say that we are defending constitutional rule, the democratic regime, democratic institutions, and the law.

We also wish to say that democracy—although it is true that it is imperfect and sometimes calls for harsh and strong debates—permits the replacement of rulers who fail to measure up to the people's will, through a regime of freedom and a universal vote that is secret and direct.

I wish to voice to the president of the republic and members of the cabinet the full solidarity of the government of the State of Bolivar; our democratic solidarity; our solidarity to the Constitution; and, of course, to let them know that we are on the alert for any situation that might develop.

### Social Christian Official Condemns Coup Attempt

*PA0402120792 Caracas Televen Canal 10 in Spanish 0905 GMT 4 Feb 92*

[Statement by Eduardo Fernandez, secretary general of the Social Christian Party, COPEI—live, broadcast in progress]

[Text] ...emphatic repudiation of the act, that force that seeks to violate the Constitution, the law, and the Venezuelan people's commitment to democracy. With firm serenity, I emphatically condemn this act. I have been in contact with the head of state, the president of the Republic. I talked to him just a few minutes ago. I want to call on the entire country to repudiate this act of violence. Venezuela has an unremitting commitment to democracy. We do not want, in any way, to have our problems resolved by force. We want our problems to be resolved in a civic, democratic manner.

I wish to express my solidarity with the country's institutions, and the solidarity of the Social Christian Party [COPEI] and the entire Venezuelan nation.

I wish to make a special appeal to the soldiers of the Republic, to the Armed Forces officers at all levels: You are duty bound to obey the national Constitution. No order from any officer of any rank can attempt to invalidate the oath of loyalty that all soldiers have sworn to the national Constitution. Venezuela's international prestige demands from us at this time an attitude that is very firm, full of solidarity, nationalistic, and patriotic. We must defend the national Constitution. In a democracy, problems are resolved with votes, not bullets.

I emphatically repudiate this act of force and call on all Venezuelans to unite in defense of the Constitution, the institutions, and the law. The head of state has just said, in an address broadcast on television, that he has the country's solidarity and support. I want to confirm this. The entire country supports the Constitution, the law, and the institutions as reflected in the stability of the head of state's mandate. Venezuela is a civilized nation and, as such, we have to repudiate those who attempt to disrupt the constitutional and legal systems by force. I call for all Venezuelans to be calm. I have received information that military commanders are fully respecting and defending the national Constitution. The feeling of the overwhelming majority of the Armed Forces and the Venezuelan people is to defend democracy. I emphatically repudiate the act of force, and I call on the entire nation to mobilize in defense of the Constitution and the laws of the Republic.

### Television Reports on Situation Throughout Country

*PA0402123992 Caracas Venezolana de Television Network in Spanish 1150 GMT 4 Feb 92*

[Text] Throughout this morning, we will continue to broadcast reports on the incidents that have shaken the country since 0030 [0430 GMT] on 4 February, when subversive groups simultaneously occupied the Miraflores Presidential Palace and the La Casona presidential residence.

There were also coup attempts in other places of the country, especially in the states of Zulia, Aragua, and Carabobo. They have so far been attributed to the Jose Leonardo Chirinos Paratrooper Battalion.

The situation is under control in the States of Zulia and Aragua. A very tense situation still prevails in the state of Carabobo. The president of the Republic was forced to leave the Miraflores Palace while the situation was brought under control. As you saw through our cameras, there was heavy shooting, and the evidence can be seen at the Palace of the Mirrors, at the central patio of the Miraflores Palace. However, order was restored.

Air Force Commander Fuget was also captured but, thanks to the intervention of General Paredes Nino, the situation was controlled, and he is now in a safe place. The National Guard commander voiced his full support to the president of the Republic, to the point that all members of the National Guard are out in the streets of the nation's territory.

The situation is under control. All segments of the population are voicing their support and solidarity with President Perez. At the international level... [changes thought] the first coup attempt since the difficult situation that former President Romulo Betancourt experienced during the 1960's, the first coup attempt after more than 30 years of democracy without major problems, has been satisfactorily controlled.

You saw President Carlos Andres Perez, accompanied by his Defense Minister Fernando Ochoa Antich and his Interior Affairs Minister Virgilio Avila Vivas, deliver a speech directly from the Miraflores Palace. The president is there and maintains control over the situation.

We have yet to learn about the situation at the La Casona presidential residence and hear from the Osvaldo Alvarez Paz, governor of the State of Zulia, because there are rumors that he experienced very dramatic moments.

### Caracas Governor: Guarantees Suspension Approved

*PA0402132692 Caracas Venezolana de Television Network in Spanish 1251 GMT 4 Feb 92*

[Interview with Caracas Governor Antonio Ledezma by unidentified reporters in Caracas—live]

[Text] [Reporter] Have special measures been adopted in Caracas? The people are saying they do not know if they should go to work. What would you recommend?

[Ledezma] They should adhere to the decree suspending guarantees, which has just been approved by the Council of Ministers to ensure the tranquillity, safety, and property of citizens.

I insist that the situation is under control. These urgent measures, which are supported by all political forces and by President Perez' executive cabinet, are intended solely to consolidate peace and democracy, which should be of concern to everyone, without exception.

[Reporter] Mr. Governor, when will the suspension of guarantees go into effect and under what conditions?

[Ledezma] As of today, 4 February, when Congress approves it. The details will be provided by the director of the central information office.

### Decree Issued

*PA0402153792 Caracas Venezolana de Television Network in Spanish 1408 GMT 4 Feb 92*

[Announcement by Minister Andres Eloy Blanco Iturbe of the Central Office of Information at the Miraflores Presidential Palace in Caracas—live]

[Text] The National Government has approved Decree No. 2086. As you all know, once this decree is published in the Official Gazette, the National Government has up to 10 days to present it to the National Congress, that is, the two chambers, in a joint session.

Nonetheless, inasmuch as the National Congress has called for a special session this afternoon, the interior minister will present it today to the joint session of Congress.

Decree 2086 issued on 4 February 1992:

Carlos Andres Perez, president of the Republic, empowered by Paragraph Six of Article 190 of the Constitution and according to Articles 241 and 242 [word indistinct], during a meeting of the Council of Ministers:

Whereas early this morning there was an attempted coup intended to break the state of law and disrupt the constitutional order of the Republic;

Whereas it was sought in that criminal attempt to assassinate the president of the Republic and commander in chief of the National Armed Forces, thus attacking the achievements of the Venezuelan people after more than three decades of democracy;

Whereas it is the duty of the national executive to preserve democracy and guarantee the normal development of the country's institutional life;

Hereby decrees:

Article 1. The guarantees contained in Articles 60, Paragraphs 1, 2, 6, and 10; and Articles 62, 64, 66, 71, 92, and 115 of the National Constitution are hereby suspended throughout the national territory.

Article 2. This decree will be submitted for consideration by the joint session of the legislative chambers within the next 10 days following the publication of this decree.

Article 3. The ministers of the cabinet are in charge of implementing this decree.

Issued, signed, and sealed at the Miraflores Presidential Palace on 4 February 1992.

Signed by Carlos Andres Perez and endorsed by the ministers of the Executive Office.

Gentlemen of the media: The decree suspending the constitutional guarantees—which I have just read and which was approved by the national government and issued by the president of the Republic—refers to the following:

Article 60, Paragraph 1 of the Constitution concerns personal freedom; any citizen may be arrested without an arrest warrant. Paragraph 2 refers to the principle of penal legality; any person may be arrested, even if his behavior is not considered a crime or in violation of the law. Paragraph 6says that even after the order to release has been issued, a citizen may still be detained. Paragraph 10 states that the measures of social interest may be adopted at the discretion of the president; it concerns individuals who are considered dangerous and the possibility that the state may declare police measures to safeguard property, security, and public stability.

Article 62 of the Constitution concerns the inviolability of homes. During the suspension of constitutional guarantees, a home may be raided without the need for a court order.

Article 64 concerns freedom of transit throughout the national territory, which may be restricted.

Article 66 concerns freedom of expression and thought, which is hereby suspended or might be suspended for the sake of the public interest and for the reestablishment of constitutional order.

Article 71 concerns the right to assembly, which may be suspended.

Article 92 concerns the right to strike, which is suspended.

Article 115 concerns the right to hold public demonstrations, which is suspended. That is all.

## Banking Operations Suspended for Two Days

*PA0402143992 Paris AFP in Spanish 1337 GMT 4 Feb 92*

[Text] Caracas, 4 Feb (AFP)—Official government spokesmen have announced at the Miraflores Presidential Palace that the Venezuelan Government has decided to suspend all banking operations involving foreign exchange for two days.

The cabinet explained that the measure has been adopted to prevent panic reactions, which could gravely alter the current exchange rate (62 bolivares for $1). Some observers believe, however, that the measure could be aimed at preventing people from leaving the country.

The cabinet has also decided to suspend constitutional guarantees in the country, a decision that Congress is expected to approve at noon on 4 February (1600 GMT).

## Coup Leader Urges Followers To Lay Down Arms

*PA0402163392 Caracas Venezolana de Television Network in Spanish 1558 GMT 4 Feb 92*

[Message read by coup leader "Commander Chavez" in Caracas—live]

[Text] First I must say good morning to the Venezuelan people. This Bolivarian message is addressed to the brave soldiers of the Paratroopers Regiment in Aragua and the Armored Brigade in Valencia.

Comrades, unfortunately for now the goals that we established were not achieved in the capital. In other words, here in Caracas we did not attain power. You did it very well, but the time has come to prevent further bloodshed. The time has come to reflect. New situations will emerge. The country must find the path to a better future.

Therefore, heed my words, heed Commander Chavez [not further identified], who has issued this message: Reflect and lay down your weapons, because the goals we established nationwide are impossible to achieve. Comrades, hear this message of solidarity.

I thank you for your loyalty, bravery, and selflessness, and before the country and all of you I assume responsibility for this Bolivarian military movement. Thank you very much.

## Democratic Action Rejects Attempted Coup

*PA0402140292 Caracas Televen Canal 10 in Spanish 0805 GMT 4 Feb 92*

[Message from Deputy Enrique Parra of the Democratic Action National Directorate in Caracas—live]

[Text] Good morning fellow countrymen: In the name of the Democratic Action National Directorate and the Venezuelan people in general, we want to voice our

outright rejection of this foiled coup d'etat by adventuresome individuals who have not understood the road that the nation must follow.

We are obviously having problems and difficulties, but we are on the road to finding solutions to these problems. These solutions can only be fostered and found in a democracy such as we have had for the past 30 years.

As Venezuela's young generation, we have been trained in an unfailing democracy, and we will stand beside it. Moreover, today once again the Armed Forces High Command, its junior officers, and its rank and file have demonstrated that their structure is democratic. In light of this, and given the Venezuelan people's trust in democracy and its government, today we have overcome this coup attempt by these adventuresome individuals.

President Carlos Andres Perez has already arrived at the Miraflores Presidential Palace; everything is under control. Therefore, it is important that tomorrow all Venezuelans, who have lived under and who know the advantages and benefits of democracy, participate in civic activity. Together we must demonstrate once again that in Venezuela our thinking is democratic; our challenge is with democracy to find the right road through work, effort, and understanding and, in harmony, to resolve the problems we obviously face. Therefore, in a democracy and in our tolerant and conciliatory government, we can find the solutions to our problems.

We must acknowledge that we have these problems. However, only in democracy can we find the solutions to these problems. These will not be found in de facto regimes nor in the most mistaken road of dictatorships, which in our hemisphere have specifically demonstrated that they are not the solution to the problems, but rather that they worsen the situations and multiply misfortune.

This is the message of Democratic Action, fundamentally the message of young activists to the nation. We feel reassured and we support unalterably the Venezuelan democracy that cost our nation so much.

## Caracas Governor Praises Armed Forces, Police

*PA0402140492 Caracas Venezolana de Television Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 4 Feb 92*

[Interview with Caracas Governor Antonio Ledezma by unidentified reporters in Caracas—live]

[Text] [Reporter] Governor, what is the situation in the capital city?

[Ledezma] It is under control. I came to my office as soon as I heard the news; that was between 0000 and 0100. I have been here with the Metropolitan Police addressing this situation. The people have united, thanks to democracy—which is a system we must preserve—and to our Armed Forces, the soldiers loyal to popular sovereignty and the letter and spirit of our Constitution who have displayed civic pride, bravery, and respect for these sacred principles. I believe this regrettable experience has brought Venezuela together to protect the democratic system.

[Reporter] Governor, there are reports to the effect that there are problems within the Metropolitan Police in Cotiza. Is this true?

[Ledezma] At this moment, I can inform the people of Caracas and all of Venezuela that a lieutenant from the paratrooper group surrendered with a group of soldiers and that he is in the custody of the military intelligence directorate.

[Reporter] It has been announced that there were many casualties among the Municipal Police in Sucre District, who upon learning of the coup attempt came to La Casona to defend the freedom of the facility. What is your opinion of this report? Is it true? How many were killed?

[Ledezma] I do not have any information on casualties. I am aware that this body of policemen, as well as other men and women from the police force, cooperated. They joined together to defend democracy.

[Reporter] What do you believe will happen in the next few hours? Will the situation be brought totally under control throughout the country?

[Ledezma] We will soon have control of the situation. The Metropolitan Police and the National Guard are patrolling the streets of Caracas, traffic is normal, and the people are breathing freely now because, although the conflict is still recent, the Armed Forces and police forces have acted assertively.

[Reporter] Are there special instructions for the people? Reports have it that the Caracas subway is not operating. Is there any transportation? What is the situation?

[Ledezma] The people must help us by being good citizens and by displaying their loyalty to democracy. With this good behavior, they will contribute to the struggle we are all waging to prevent a seditious group, encouraged by ulterior motives, from destroying this democratic project, attained through the effort and blood of the generation that founded the system.

[Reporter] Are there services, Mr. Governor? Is there any transportation available?

[Ledezma] Yes, and transportation will increase as the day progresses.

## Civilians, Students Reportedly Supported Rebels

*PA0402172992 Paris AFP in Spanish 1629 GMT 4 Feb 92*

[Text] Caracas, 4 Feb (AFP)—Civilians with automatic weapons were acting as snipers on 4 February in support of the rebel troops harassing soldiers loyal to President Carlos Andres Perez at several points in Caracas, according to reporters on the scene.

In Agua Salud, at the entrance to the populous 23 January "red" neighborhood, just 1 km west of the presidential palace, "hooded" civilians were shooting at soldiers loyal to the government.

Other snipers were active in Los Chaguaramos, a sector adjacent to the Central University. Individuals were also shooting at the loyal soldiers near La Carlota Air Base in the eastern area of the capital close to "La Casona" presidential residence.

University students were seen patrolling with the rebel soldiers in Valencia, 80 km west of the capital.

Valencia Governor Henrique Salas, an industrialist, said the military rebels of the Bolivarian Revolutionary Movement are linked to extreme leftist groups.

Some 12 hours after it was launched, the 4 February coup attempt in Venezuela seems to have resulted in a total defeat for the rebels, who failed to capture Perez and were unable to take control of radio and television stations.

## Guyana

### Economy Records 6.1 Percent Increase in 1991

*FL0302185692 Bridgetown CANA in English*
*1522 GMT 2 Feb 92*

[Text] Georgetown, Guyana, Feb 2, CANA - Guyana's economy, stagnant since a 2.5 per cent growth in 1984, recorded 6.1 per cent increase last year, the state-owned CHRONICLE newspaper reported.

It quoted President Desmond Hoyte as saying Friday [31 January], the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) increase was way above the 3.9 percent projection in last year's budget.

"We have done well and we are now in a more comfortable position than we have been for many a year," Hoyte is reported to have told a retreat of the trade, tourism and industry ministry.

He also announced that Central Bank reserves are now at U.S.112 million dollars and this is the highest since the bank's establishment 26 years ago.

Guyana three years ago launched an International Monetary Fund (IMF) and World Bank-supervised recovery programme aimed at turning around the country's moribund economy.

Several devaluations since then have pushed up food prices by more than 500 percent, interest rates have been doubled to 40 per cent and wages kept to a minimum as the government tightened spending.

The paper quoted Hoyte as saying that spectacular production increases in key export areas—rice, sugar, bauxite, gold and others have contributed to the turnaround.

The economy recorded a 3.5 per cent decline in 1990, but the introduction of foreign exchange cambios the same year and a general deregulation of the economy have helped to stir investment and increase production.

The national budge is expected late next month and Hoyte, who faces the electorate this year is pinning re-election hopes on improved living standards under the recovery programme.

### Commission Chairman on New, Clean Voters List

*FL3001235092 Bridgetown CANA in English*
*2217 GMT 30 Jan 92*

[Text] Georgetown, Guyana, Jan 30, CANA—Guyana is to have a new and clean voters list by March, Elections Commission Chairman Rudy Collins said on Thursday. Collins told CANA the list was being compiled using registration documents as the source of information, and was "running" at 99.1 per cent accuracy.

Hoyte, 62, wants the production of a clean voters list since Western backers of Guyana's Economic Recovery Programme (ERP) have tied continued economic and material aid to a free and fair poll here.

Besides checking the list against registration documents, Collins said the commission planned to conduct a random test next month by visiting homes "to ensure that the names on the list represent people on the list or who existed at the time of registration."

"That should satisfy all the clamours from political parties that the list was padded. I am quite confident that the results will show quite conclusively that the list was not padded," Collins said.